ペンとチョコレート

ねむようこ

PEN AND CHOCOLATE NEMU YOKO

1

MCS

ペンとチョコレート 1

ねむようこ

HOUBUNSHA

MCS

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ねむようこ

6月8日生まれ。
2004年デビュー。
現在、女性誌を中心に活躍中。
ペンが好き。

人気不振により突然、連載を打ち切られた漫画家・フタバトワコ。
担当編集者にも見放され、まさにがけっぷちのフタバの
新担当を買ってでてくれたのは男性編集者・秋元だった。
秋元によって鍛えられていくフタバは、
彼の誠実な仕事ぶりと熱意に胸を打たれ、徐々に好意を抱くように…!?

ある意味、恋人同士よりも"濃い"関係の漫画家と編集者。
それらを軸に展開するリアルなガーリィ漫画家の恋!

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 1
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

Pen to Chocolate 1

Nemu Youko

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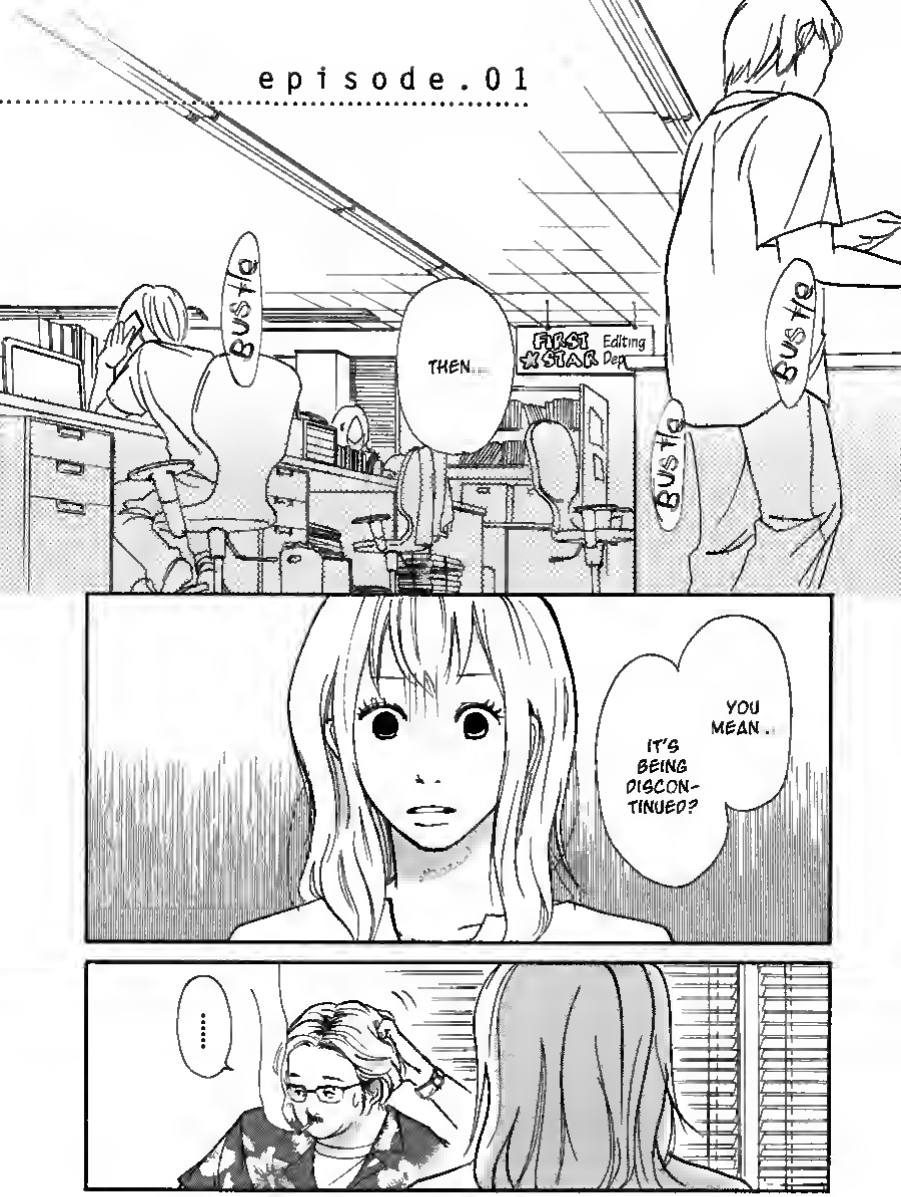
episode.01


BUSTle
THEN...
FIRST ★STAR Editing Dep.
BUSTle
BUSTle
YOU MEAN..
IT'S BEING DISCON-TINUED?
.....

BUT WELL, YOU'VE GOT ONE MORE CHAPTER
MAKE IT A GOOD ONE Kay?
smile
WELL... TO PUT IT BLUNTLY, YEAH...
.....
SO FUTABA'S SERIES DID GET CANCELLED...?
BUT I LIKED FUTABA'S SERIES...
It's too bad...
flop
OH, PASS THESE ON TO NOGUCHI...
YEAH... IT WASN'T IMPROVING IN THE READER SURVEYS...

RIGHT... SO HE'LL GIVE THEM BACK TO HER...
rustle
FUTABA'S OLD DRAFTS...
WHAT ARE THEY?
I have a meeting I have to get to now
I've seen this type of thing happen countless times.
is like a death sentence for an artist...
After all, having your series cancelled
STILL, I'M REALLY NOT COMFORTABLE WITH IT...
It's awkward.

...GO.
tap
AKIMOTO~~ A FAX CAME IN FROM OKADA!
SO SHE'S BACK TO SENDING OUT DRAFTS AND LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PUBLISH...
FIRE
What U !?
Seriously, that guy-U
To Akimoto, I'm sorry, I can't do it. I'm leaving. ^=3 Okada
Looks like bad news
SINCE IT'S THE END, LET'S FINISH IT OFF WITH A BANG!
BUT...
GET HANAKO AND TAROU TOGETHER—

I CAN'T JUST THROW THEM TOGETHER!!
CATER
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
UH!
HANAKO'S FEELINGS FOR TAROU ARE...

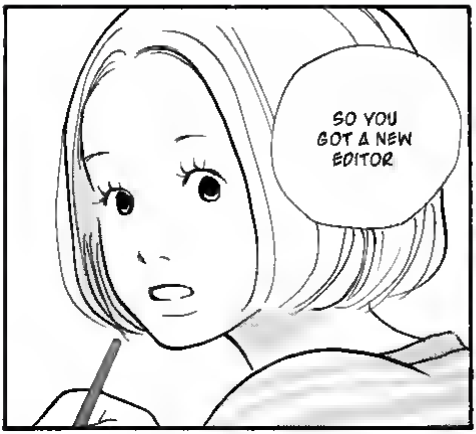
Girls need big boobs, or there's no point
FROM THE START... YOU WANTED HER TO HAVE BIG BOOBS
DUN!
No point!?
Small boobs
THE MENTAL ANGUISH SHE AND I ENDURED
I'm not a cow!!
BUT STILL!
BUT INCREDIBLY PERSEVER-ANT...
HANAKO IS SHY,
This is nothing!
Tarou!
Mental anguish over breast size?
Eavesdropping
Flance
HANAKO AND I WORKED HARD AND GOT PAST IT...
See, she's such a pure-hearted girl!
My Mary really likes you!
AND FINALLY GOT TO THE POINT WHERE SHE COULD FACE TAROU
Eeeek! Mary, you're so cuttee eee!
GRRRR...
SQUEEZE
SHE OVERCAME HER FEAR OF DOGS.

I GET HOW SHE FEELS
SO PLEASE DON'T BE SO CASUAL ABOUT THROWING THEM TOGETHER...
SHE JUST FINALLY GOT THERE...
.....
THERE'S STILL A LOT I WANT TO DO WITH HANAKO.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE ABOUT IT...
What'll Noguchi do, I wonder...
I WANTED HER TO TAKE UP BASEBALL AND GO TO THE TOURNAMENT AT A SHINING KOSHIEN STADIUM...
SH-

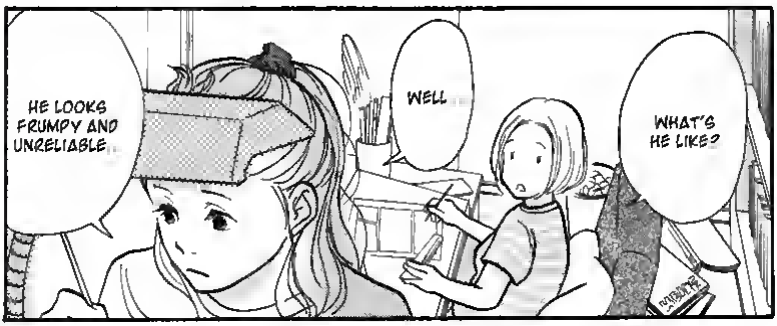
I found her old draft
WH... WHAT IS THAT!?
Behold! Shining Koshien!
Futaba Tewako
AND
What's that about!?
poke poke
SHINING KOSHIEN!?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT HAVING HER
TRAVEL BACK IN TIME TO THE SENGOKU ERA TO PLAY A MATCH WITH NINJAS
Huh ...
Ninjas !?
NOGUCHI, DIDN'T YOU SAY MY SERIES WAS GOOD?

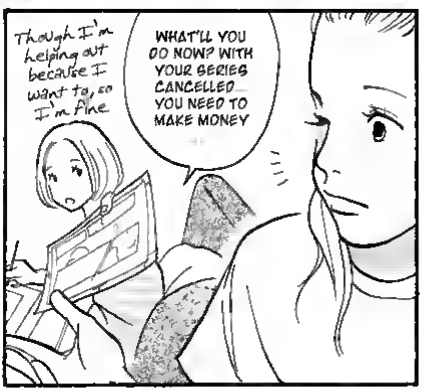
THERE'S .. STILL A LOT THAT I WANT TO DRAW.
AKI-MOTO?
WERE YOU LYING TO ME?
.....
PLEASE LET ME KEEP DRAWING.
NOGUCHI
MANGA ARE FOR THE READERS
clack
FUTABA, WELL

COULD YOU TURN FUTABA OVER TO ME?
SHINING BASEBALL SOUNDS NICE!
HOW ABOUT YOU WORK WITH ME ON YOUR NEXT SERIES?
Shining
How
!

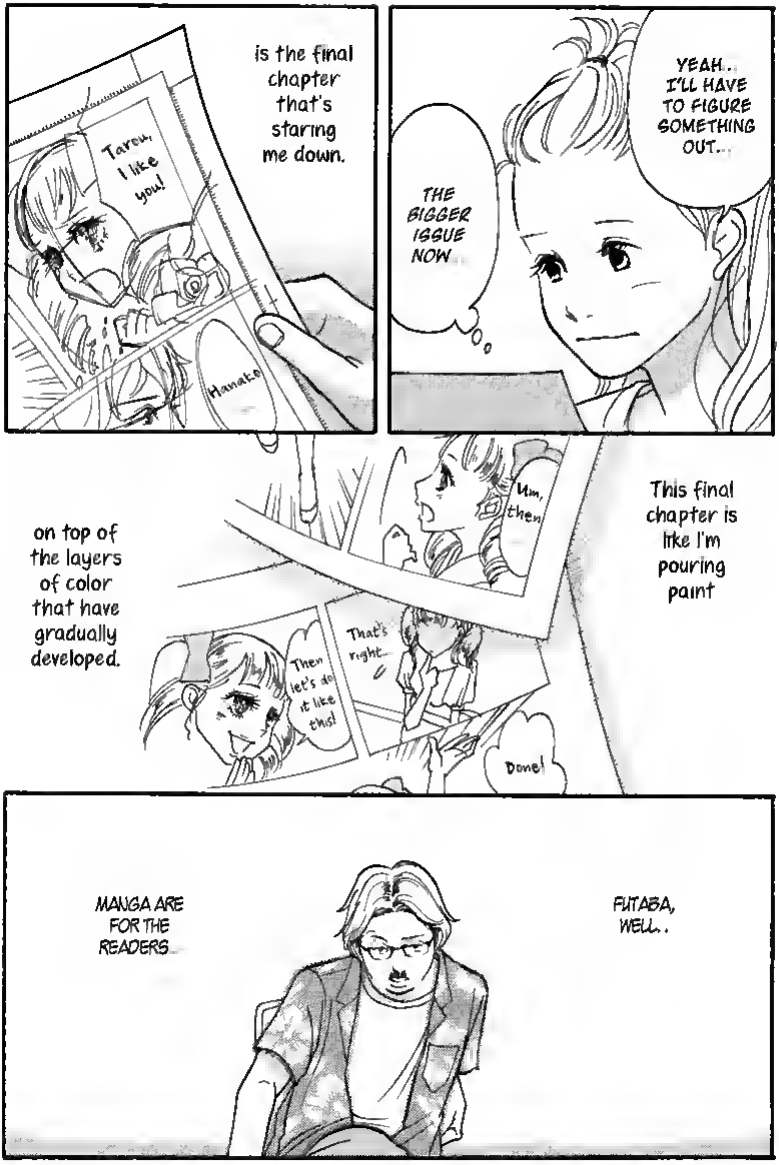

SO YOU GOT A NEW EDITOR

HUH—

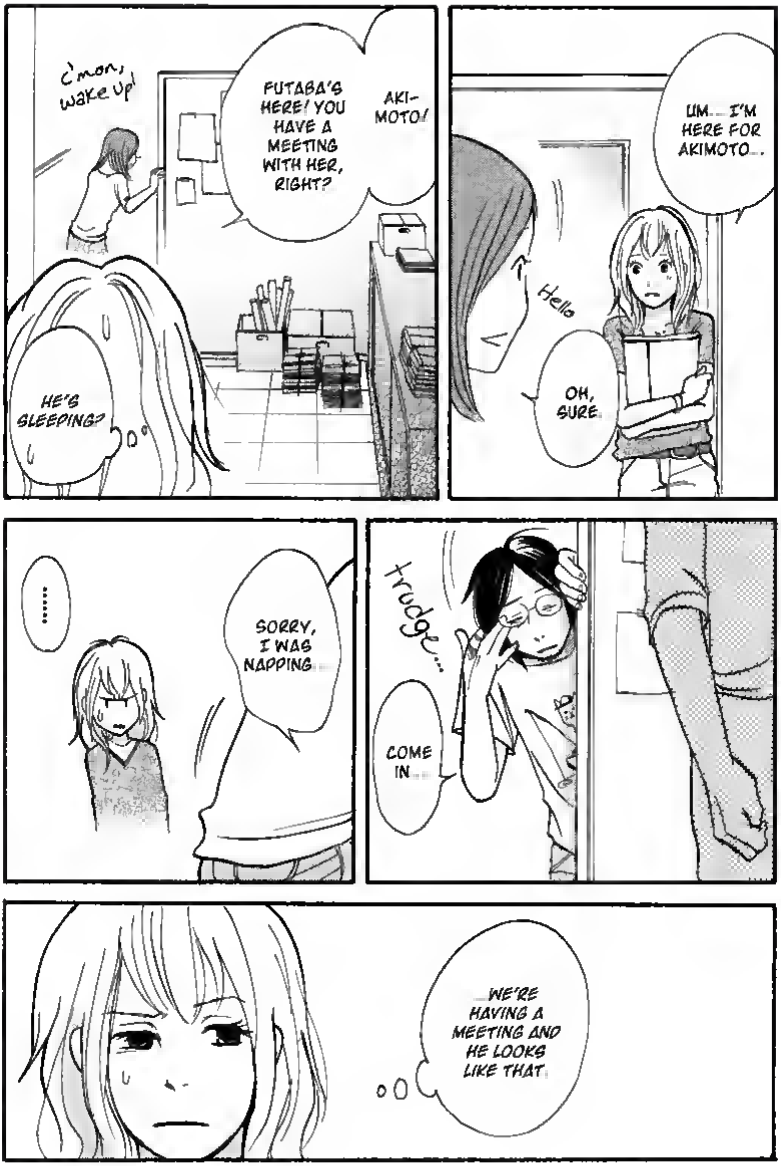

HE LOOKS FRUMPY AND UNRELIABLE
WELL
WHAT'S HE LIKE?


Though I'm helping out because I want to, so I'm fine
WHAT'LL YOU DO NOW? WITH YOUR SERIES CANCELLED— YOU NEED TO MAKE MONEY

BUT
AND HE LAUGHED AT MY SHINING BASEBALL!
Is he even serious...?


Tarou, I like you!
Hanako
is the final chapter that's staring me down.
YEAH.. I'LL HAVE TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT...
THE BIGGER ISSUE NOW...
Um, then...
That's right...
Then let's do it like this!
Done!
This final chapter is like I'm pouring paint
on top of the layers of color that have gradually developed.
MANGA ARE FOR THE READERS...
FUTABA, WELL..

*Houbun Publishing


C'mon, wake up!
FUTABA'S HERE! YOU HAVE A MEETING WITH HER, RIGHT?
AKI-MOTO!
HE'S SLEEPING?
UM... I'M HERE FOR AKIMOTO...
Hello
OH, SURE
.....
SORRY, I WAS NAPPING
trudge...
COME IN
...WE'RE HAVING A MEETING AND HE LOOKS LIKE THAT

I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER MY POSITION HERE!
shake shake
OK!
QUIT IT!
Sit here.
?
Who left their food here...
Geez...
HE'D LOOK MORE SERIOUS IF HE TOOK A LITTLE CARE WITH HIS APPEARANCE...
And he's wearing a weird T-shirt...
Is coffee OK?
clack
I'VE BEEN DEMOTED TO A SECOND-STRING BALL PLAYER...
OK, SO...
I'M IN NO POSITION TO NITPICK OVER WHAT MY TRAINING COACH LOOKS LIKE...

LET'S GET STARTED.
!
a little serious...
Yeah right-
?
Huh? Maybe he is...
SO, ABOUT THIS SHINING BASEBALL OF YOURS—.
hah.
No time at all to cut my hair

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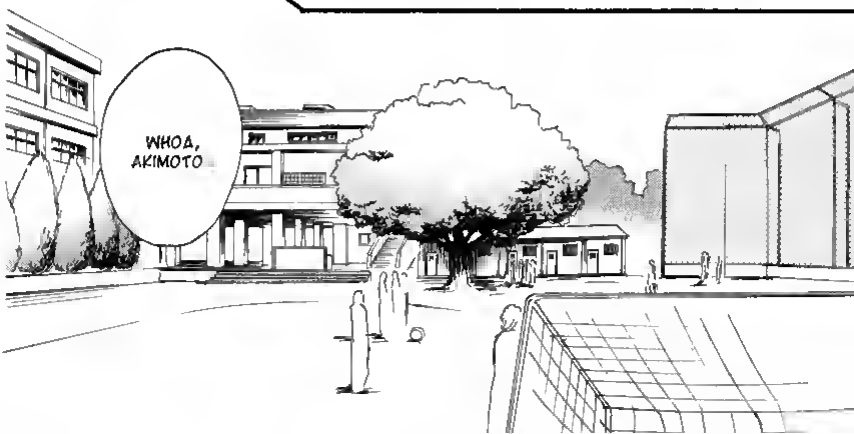
episode.02

pang
HEY! CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE !?
GOT IT!
RESEARCH A BASEBALL CLUB?
One week ago——…

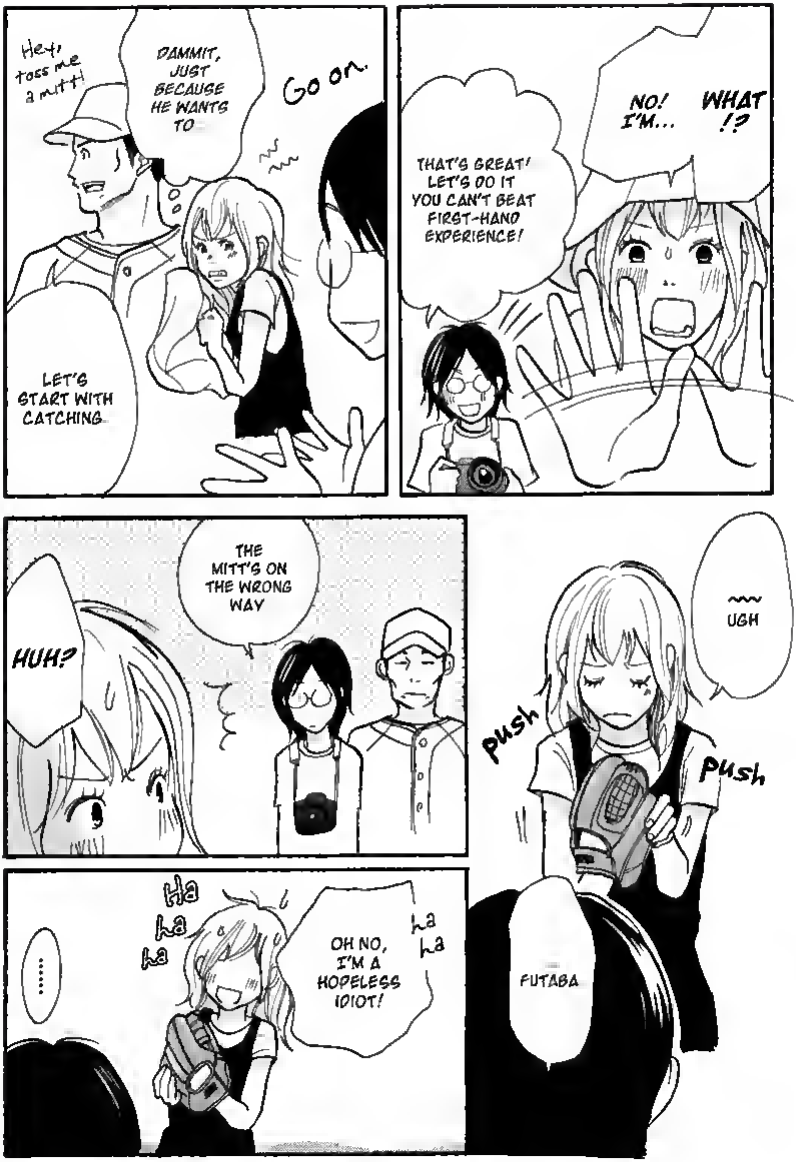
Rriing
Rriing
bustle
bustle
YES
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW ABOUT BASEBALL, YOU SHOULD SEE IT FIRST
FIRST STAR
ONE OF MY CLASSMATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL BECAME THE BASEBALL CLUB ADVISOR AT OUR OLD SCHOOL,
AND HE'S ALL TOO HAPPY TO LET US VISIT FOR RESEARCH
Sure
Ah, make me a copy of this
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Wow!
OF COURSE, I'D LOVE TO GO!!
Eating soybeans


WHOA, AKIMOTO

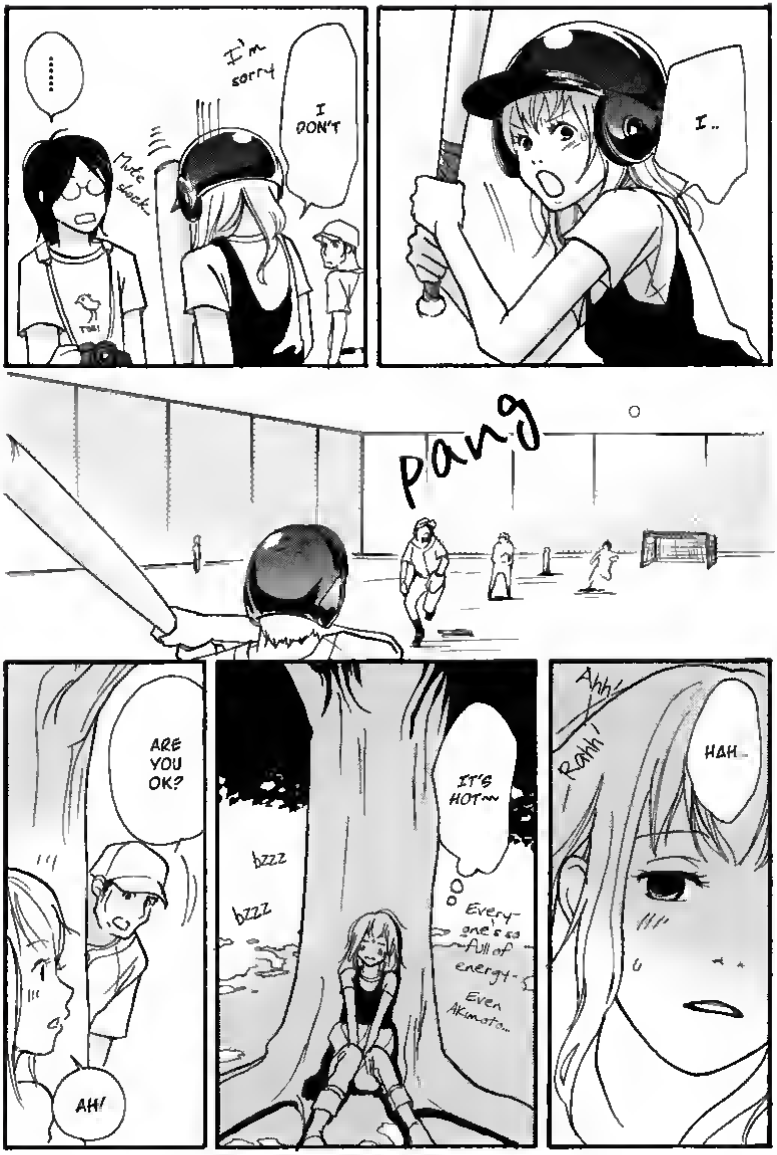
I JUST BOUGHT IT! ♡ LEAVE THE PHOTOGRAPHY TO ME!!
I won't miss any of the action!!
TAA
DAA
Isn't it too big?
WHAT'S THAT CAMERA FOR?
COULD IT BE THAT HE JUST WANTS TO USE HIS CAMERA...?
Blah
Blah
IT HAS A 12-FOLD OPTICAL ZOOM AND SO ON AND SO ON...
THEY SAY THIS NEWEST CANON MODEL IN THEIR ELITE SERIES IS A WORK OF ART!
Blah
FUTABA, WERE YOU IN A CLUB?
YEAH
BUT BEING AT A HIGH SCHOOL SURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
Even though I didn't go to this one.

Hmph!
Well, yeah, but still!
HEEEY! AKIMOTOO!
I...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AKIMOTO?
I WAS...
I WAS IN THE VOLUNTEER CLUB,
WHICH IS A FANCY WAY OF SAYING "NO REAL CLUB"...
Bwicah
...THAT'S KIND OF A LET-DOWN...
HEY THERE
AH!
FUTABA, THIS HERE IS SAITOU
Ah..
That's the most painful question to get right a...
?
Nothing to it!
DO YOU HAVE A SERIES RUNNING?
IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO MEET AN ARTIST LIKE YOU!
I brought snacks
rustle
THIS IS THE MANGA ARTIST, FUTABA TOWAKO.
THANKS FOR SHOWING ME AROUND TODAY

WELL THEN, COME THIS WAY.
CLICK
CLICK
Oooh!
We just started
You didn't catch that!?
Hey you!
FUTABA, SINCE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
CLICK
Huh?
And who are you here with?
Manager


Hey! toss me a mitt!
DAMMIT, JUST BECAUSE HE WANTS TO
Go on.
LET'S START WITH CATCHING
NO! I'M...
WHAT !?
THAT'S GREAT! LET'S DO IT YOU CAN'T BEAT FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE!
HUH?
THE MITT'S ON THE WRONG WAY
~~~ UGH
push
push
FUTABA
ha ha ha
OH NO, I'M A HOPELESS IDIOT!
ha ha
.....
~~~

HOW ABOUT WE TRY BATTING!?
wobble~
flop
HUP!
FUTABA
SQUEEZE
BUT DO YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BASE-BALL?
Flinch
Wrong Way
WH. WHAT IS IT!?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.


.....
I'm sorry
I DON'T
Mute shock...
I..
pang
ARE YOU OK?
AH!
bzzz
bzzz
IT'S HOT~~
Every-one's so full of energy-
Even Akimoto...
Ahh
Rahh!
HAH..

.....
THIS TREE, WELL...
I'M FINE
THE TREE HERE REALLY COOLS YOU OFF
ITS BRANCHES REALLY SPREAD OUT NICELY, RIGHT?
BECAUSE OF THAT, THIS AREA IS COMPLETELY HIDDEN FROM THE STAFF ROOMS
SAVED IT?
AKIMOTO SAVED IT...
I OBJECT.
WHEN THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT, THEY DECIDED TO CUT DOWN THE TREE
SO BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE AND I AND OUR FRIENDS WOULD COME HERE TO SMOKE

A BIRD?
BUT... IT'S ALREADY BEEN DECIDED
PLEASE LOOK OVER THERE.
Clatter
AN ENDAN-GERED SPECIES !?
IT HAS A NEST IN THERE
YES IT'S A FAIRY PITTA, AN ENDANGERED SPECIES
Staff
AKIMOTO!
WOULDN'T IT LOOK BAD IF WE CUT DOWN A TREE WHERE SUCH A RARE SPECIES NESTS?
And over some kids smoking!
Whatever
WE'VE GOT A BIRD LIKE THAT HERE!?

BUT WHO WOULDA THOUGHT WE'VE GOT A COOL BIRD LIKE THAT, HUH
HA HA
YEAH, ABOUT THAT..
WICKED! YOU ACTUALLY WENT TO TALK TO THEM!?
HA HA
THAT'S JUST A REGULAR BIRD YOU CAN FIND ANYWHERE
There's no fairy pitta in there
IN THE END THEY TOOK IT TO HEART, AND THE TREE WAS SAVED
I RATHER LIKE THAT TREE
YOU THEN WHY'D YOU DO THAT!?
!
It has a nice profile!

DIDN'T YOU DO IT YOURSELF?
AND SNEAKING SMOKES THERE WAS SUCH A STUPID LITTLE THING...
HEY!
AH, DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT.
TO THINK HE'D LIE SO BOLDLY TO THE ENTIRE SCHOOL STAFF JUST TO PROTECT ONE TREE...
HE'S ONE UNPREDICTABLE GUY.
Though he's usually just your average geek.
HE LOOKS WEAK, BUT EVERY SO OFTEN HE DOES SOMETHING KINDA COOL.
WELL, THAT'S JUST WHO HE IS.
.....
Could you turn Futaba over to me?

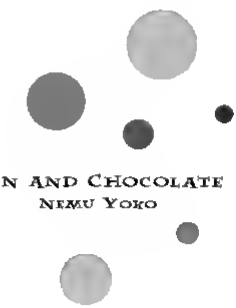
flash
flash
HOW'D IT GO?
DID YOU GET SOME GOOD MATERIAL?
YEAH...
I THINK SO...

OH...
You didn't tell me.
SO WHAT CLUB WERE YOU IN, AKIMOTO?
?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
AREN'T YOU THE LET-DOWN ~~~?
POP
THE GARDENING CLUB
scratch
scratch

Shining Baseball Plot
Incredibly timid boy
(Loves plants)
Manga Boy
When he picks up a bat, turns into a baseball berserker
Ding Ling
21.32
Good work today.
I've uploaded all the pictures online.
I'm expecting a good plot from you.
Bye.
OH, THANKS!
IT'S AKIMOTO
Click...
THERE ARE TONS!
WOW—
He got carried away~
Click
Click

I FEEL LIKE I CAN DRAW SOMETHING GOOD, AKIMOTO

Plot



PEN AND CHOCOLATE

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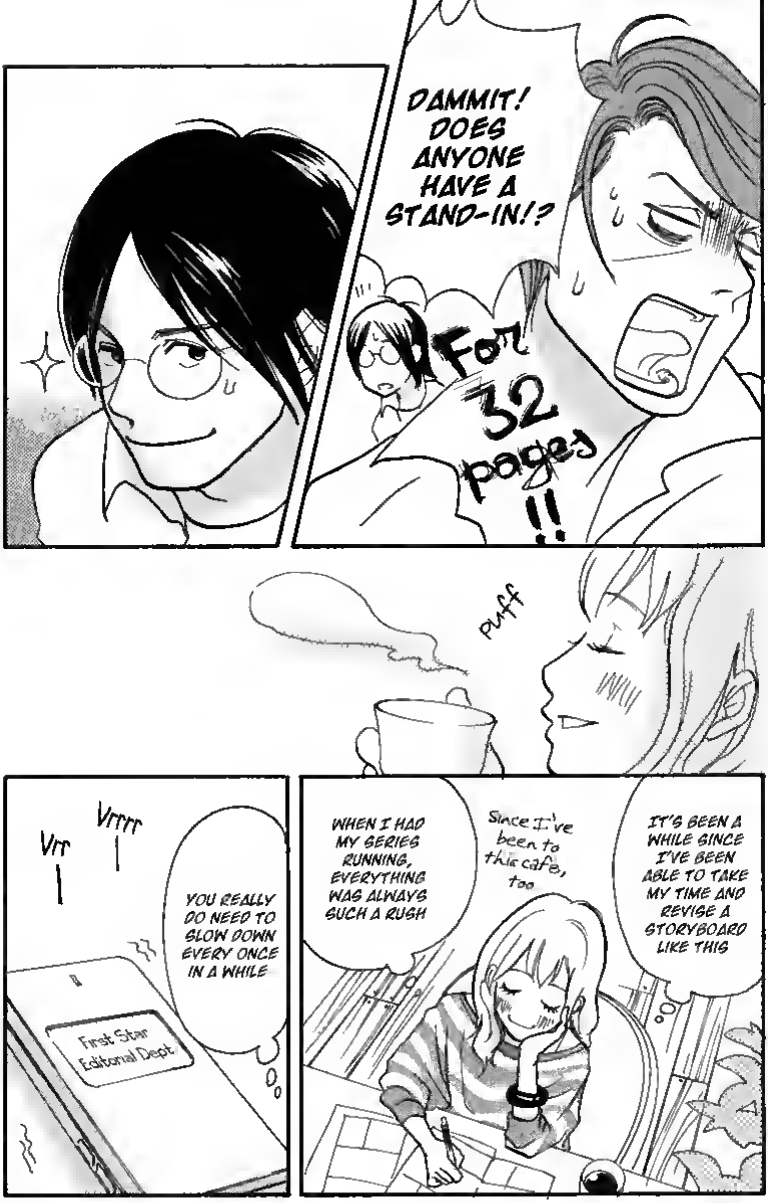
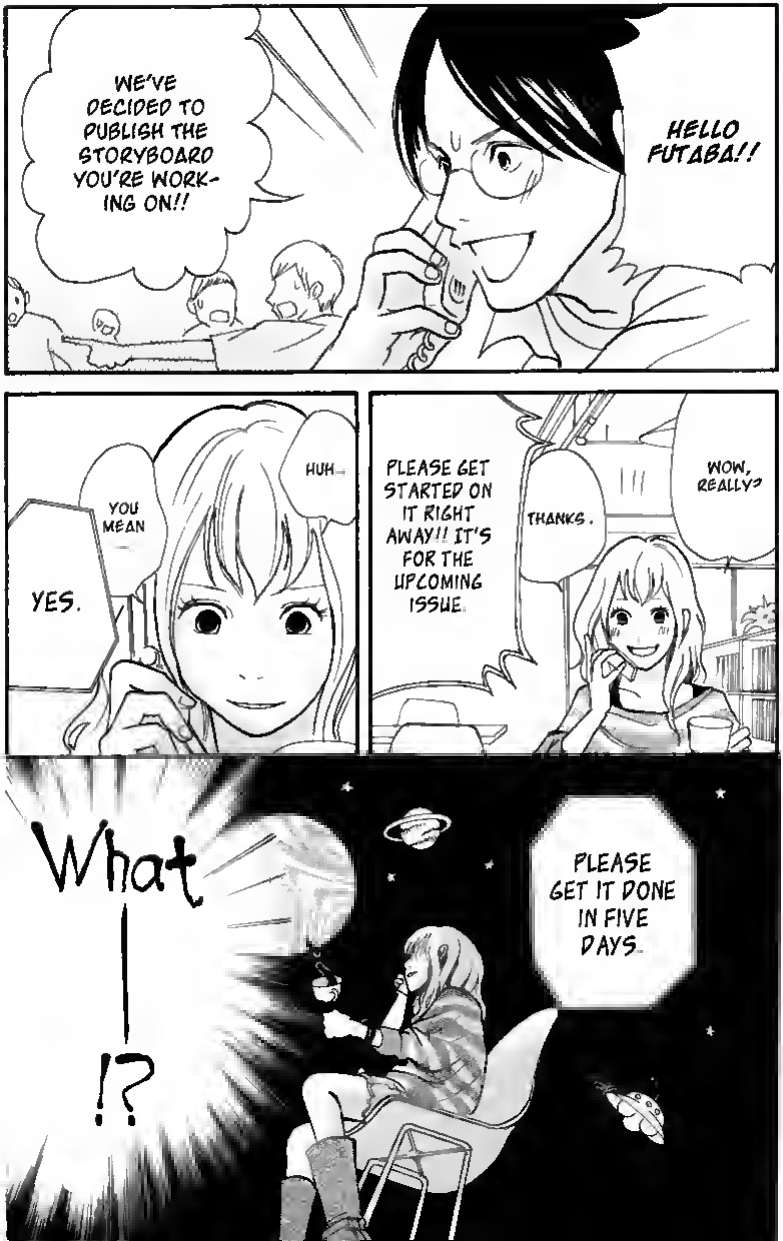
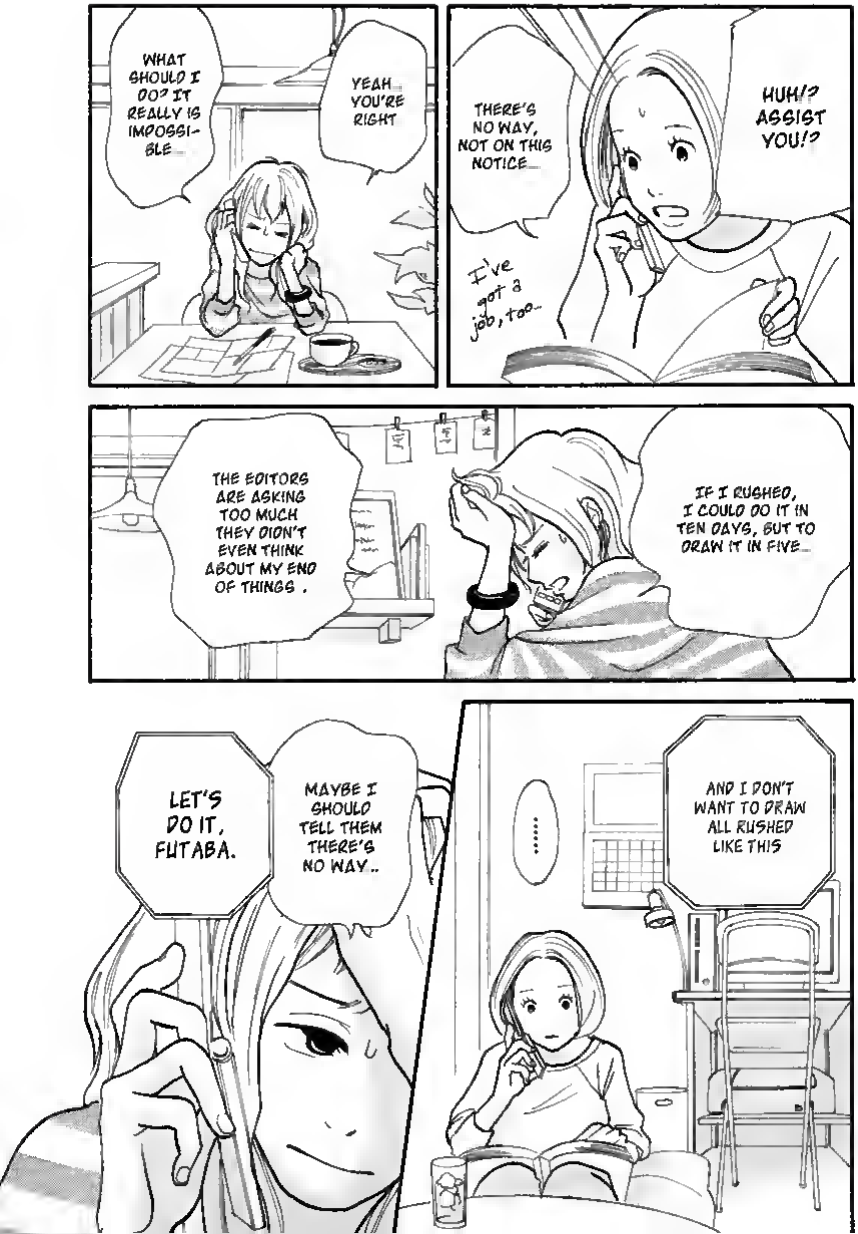
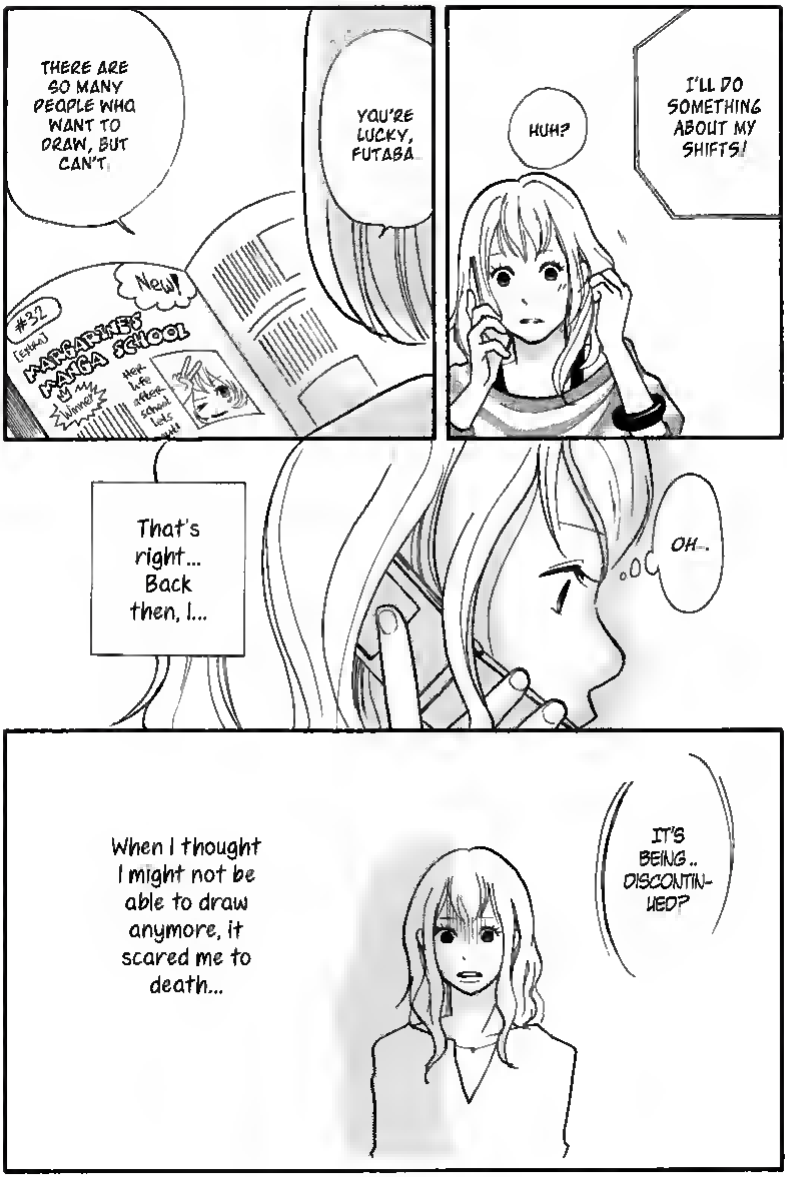
RRRRRR
RRRRRR
OH! HELLO! COMIC FIRST STAR, EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
MR. OOKOUCHI! THANKS FOR ALL THE WORK!
HUH?
MMM... YES...
I SEE...
YES...
YES!
episode.03
APPEN-DICITIS!?

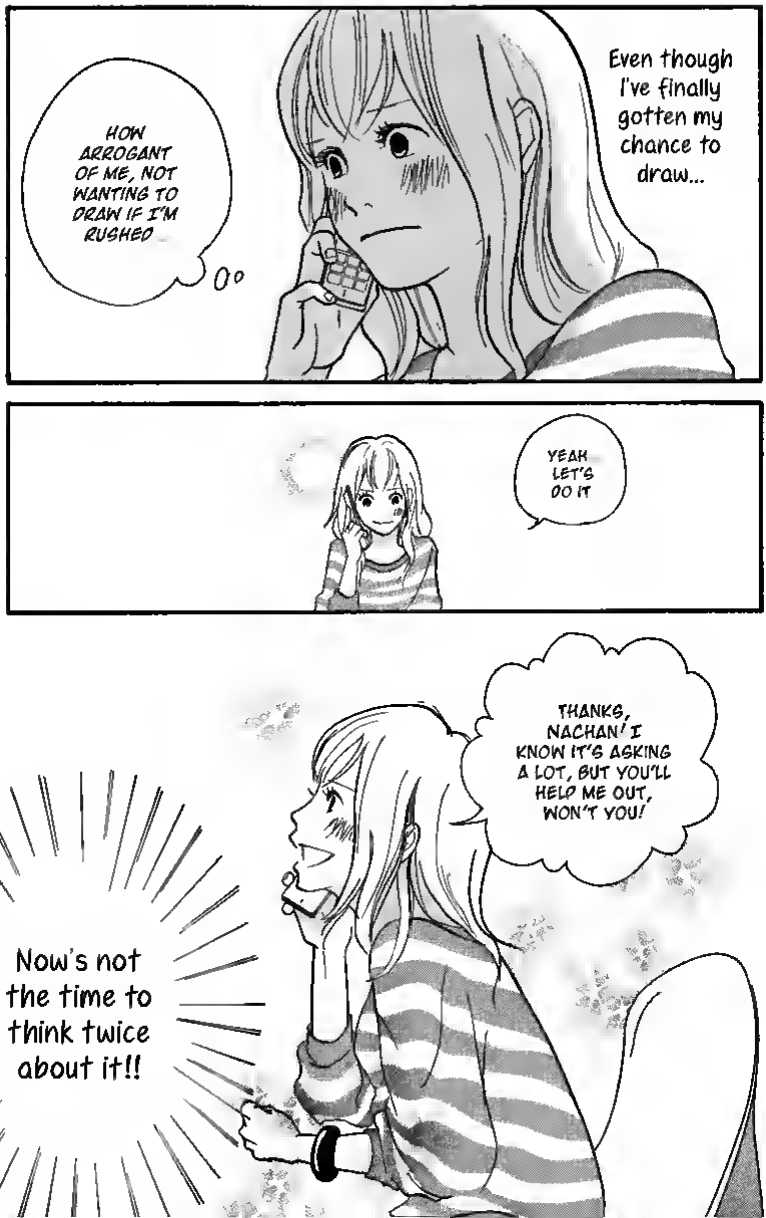
OOKOUCHI HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED DUE TO ACUTE APPENDICITIS
THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO FINISH OFF HIS CHAPTER OF "DELIVER! TRUCK GUY", THE HIGH LIGHT OF NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE
silence
...IT SEEMS
IN OTHER WORDS, HE CAN'T DO IT.
PANIC
SWITCH OUT THE HEAD-LINER!!
REDO THE TABLE OF CON-TENTS!!
WHAT ABOUT THE FLIERS FOR THE ISSUE!?
There's no way we'll make it in time!!
COMIC FIRSTSTAR #12
On Sale Nov 3rd
The Mighty Fighter Saves Deliver! Truck Guy Cokanda!


DAMMIT! DOES ANYONE HAVE A STAND-IN!?
For 32 pages!!
puff
Vrr
Vrrrr
First Star Editorial Dept.
YOU REALLY DO NEED TO SLOW DOWN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE
WHEN I HAD MY SERIES RUNNING, EVERYTHING WAS ALWAYS SUCH A RUSH
Since I've been to this cafe, too
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE MY TIME AND REVISE A STORYBOARD LIKE THIS


WE'VE DECIDED TO PUBLISH THE STORYBOARD YOU'RE WORKING ON!!
HELLO FUTABA!!
HUH—
YOU MEAN—
YES.
PLEASE GET STARTED ON IT RIGHT AWAY!! IT'S FOR THE UPCOMING ISSUE.
THANKS.
WOW, REALLY?
What—!?
PLEASE GET IT DONE IN FIVE DAYS.


WHAT SHOULD I DO? IT REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE...
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT
THERE'S NO WAY, NOT ON THIS NOTICE...
I've got a job, too.
HUH!? ASSIST YOU!?
THE EDITORS ARE ASKING TOO MUCH THEY DION'T EVEN THINK ABOUT MY END OF THINGS .
IF I RUSHED, I COULD DO IT IN TEN DAYS, BUT TO DRAW IT IN FIVE...
LET'S DO IT, FUTABA.
MAYBE I SHOULD TELL THEM THERE'S NO WAY..
.....
AND I DON'T WANT TO DRAW ALL RUSHED LIKE THIS


THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO DRAW, BUT CAN'T.
YOU'RE LUCKY, FUTABA.
New!
#32
[Shiba]
MAPPA-KUN'S MANGA SCHOOL
Manga Winner
How Life Affects School Lives
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY SHIFTS!
HUH?
That's right... Back then, I...
OH...
When I thought I might not be able to draw anymore, it scared me to death...
IT'S BEING.. DISCONTIN-UED?


Even though I've finally gotten my chance to draw...
HOW ARROGANT OF ME, NOT WANTING TO DRAW IF I'M RUSHED
Oo
YEAH LET'S DO IT
THANKS, NACHAN! I KNOW IT'S ASKING A LOT, BUT YOU'LL HELP ME OUT, WON'T YOU!
Now's not the time to think twice about it!!

I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT IT OVER!!
TWICE!!
scribble
YEAH THE DEADLINE IS TOMORROW MORNING WE'LL ATTACH THE TEXT LAYERS HERE AND HE'LL TAKE IT DIRECTLY TO THE PRINTING OFFICE
LOOKS LIKE WE MANAGED TO FINISH, SOMEHOW AKIMOTO'S COMING TO PICK IT UP TONIGHT, RIGHT?
HEY,
WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THIS, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO GO AND EAT?
Ehe he
MM
NACHAN, GIMMIE SOME JELLO——

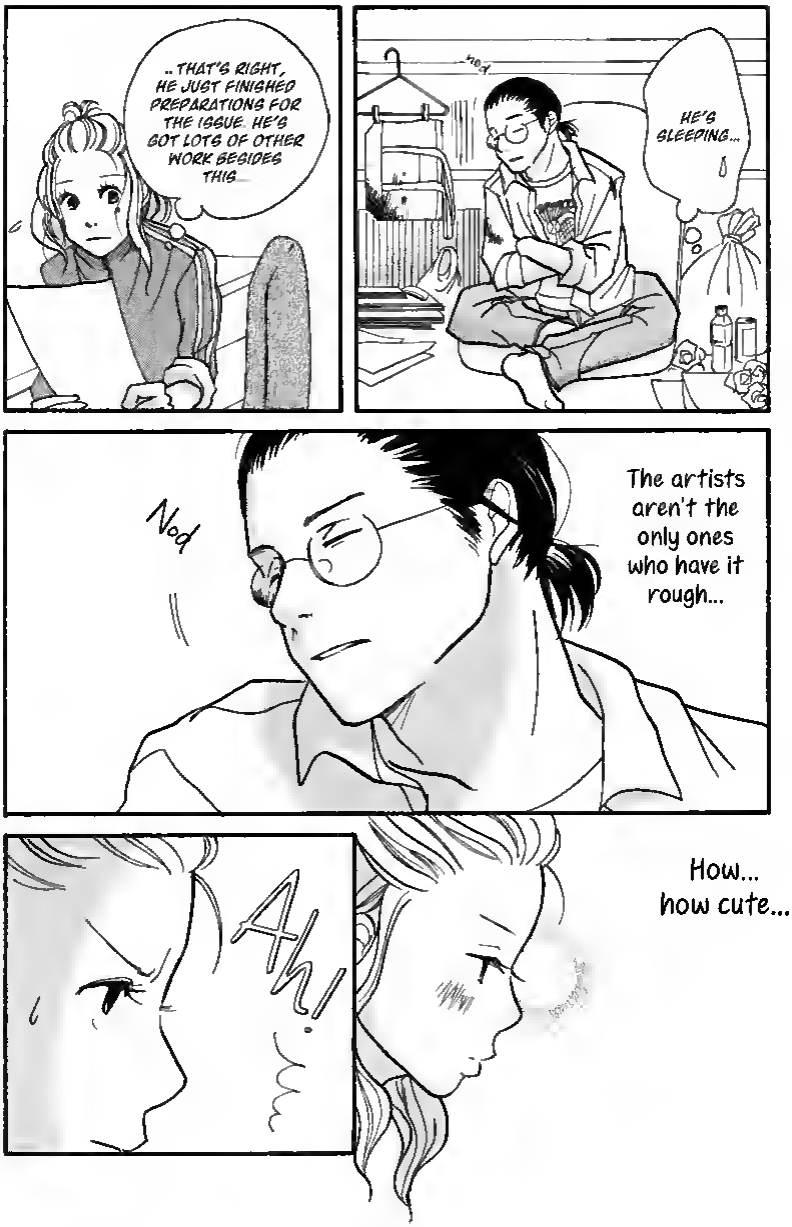
I LOVE IT!
YOU REALLY DO LIKE CHOCOLATE
he he
Cwith raspberry sauce here!
A CHOCOLATE PARFAIT, NO CONTEST!!
Truth be told, it's been stuck in my mind for a while now!!
Jello
VITT VITT
BEER!!
BEER FIRST!!
Akimoto
AH!! THAT'S HARD TO PASS UP TOO!!
TEMPURA FOR ME!!
With jumbo shrimp!!
A Garden in La-La Land
Rumble
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NEED?
Taka!
I'M HEADED OVER THERE NOW, BUT...
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK

YOSHIKOYA
吉屋
NOM
NOM
NOM
NOM
GLAD I COULD HELP. LET'S GET THROUGH THIS LAST BIT!
It's been a while since I've had a decent meal
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!!
Image
Dad, you're late!
Dad!
NOM
NOM
NOM
THE COMPLETED PAGES ARE OVER HERE
INK
AH, THEN LET'S GET GOING
THANKS

INK
DASH
WHAM
Splat
WHY?
日本刀
I...
I CAUGHT IT...
Y... yeah...
Wobble

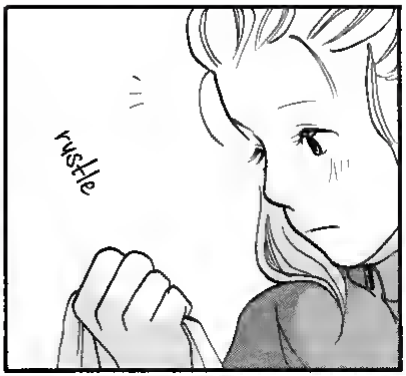
UGHH
tremble
tremble
I'm still in shock...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, JUST DRAW!
Hurry up
Now then
A-AKIMOTO, I'M SORRY. YOUR BAG, IT'S...
And your glasses.
I-I-I thought I was gonna die
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
Swipe Swipe Swipe
The sound of erasing
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT! SORRY!!
UM... I HAVE TO HEAD OUT TO MY JOB...
I couldn't do anything about tonight's shift.
YES!
FUTABA

FUTABA, KEEP IT TOGETHER !!
wobble
wobble
DUN
CLACK...
Wait !!
Do your best!!
It's OK!
Sorry! sorry!
HOW COULD THAT BE...?
drop...
YOU DID A GETTING ??
UM, THEN DO THIS..
turn
OH
Waiting...
.....
FUTABA, I'M DONE APPLYING THE TYPE TO THE ONES YOU FINISHED. CAN I HELP WITH THE SOLIDS, MAYBE?
AH, YES! JUST GIVE ME ONE MINUTE!


..THAT'S RIGHT, HE JUST FINISHED PREPARATIONS FOR THE ISSUE. HE'S GOT LOTS OF OTHER WORK BESIDES THIS...
Nod
HE'S SLEEPING...
Nod
The artists aren't the only ones who have it rough...
Ah!
How... how cute...

GAH!
SHOCK
I'm sorry! Do the solids!!
AKIMOTO! WAKE UP!!
yawn~
yawn~
IT'S DONE!
CHIRP
CHIRP
Morning!
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!
I'M OFF!
Slam
THAT'S RIGHT, I FORGOT I BROUGHT SNACKS OVER
OH!
turn
Rustle
Smile Mart 24
SLOMP
THEN I'LL TAKE CHARGE OF THE CLEAN COPY!!
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU!!
SLOMP

OH!
Choco
MILK CHOCOLATE


rustle

mun • ch
PHEW
WHAT A SWEET REWARD...

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 4
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: ayase
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu
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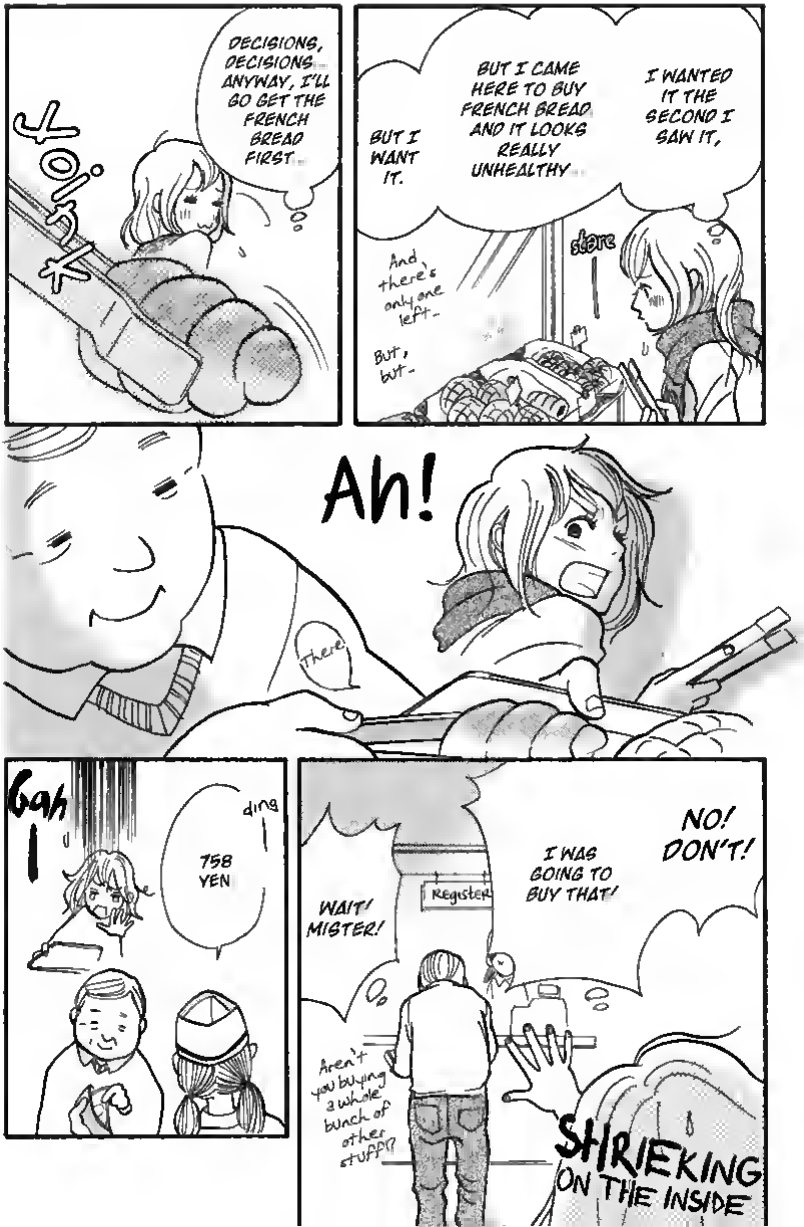
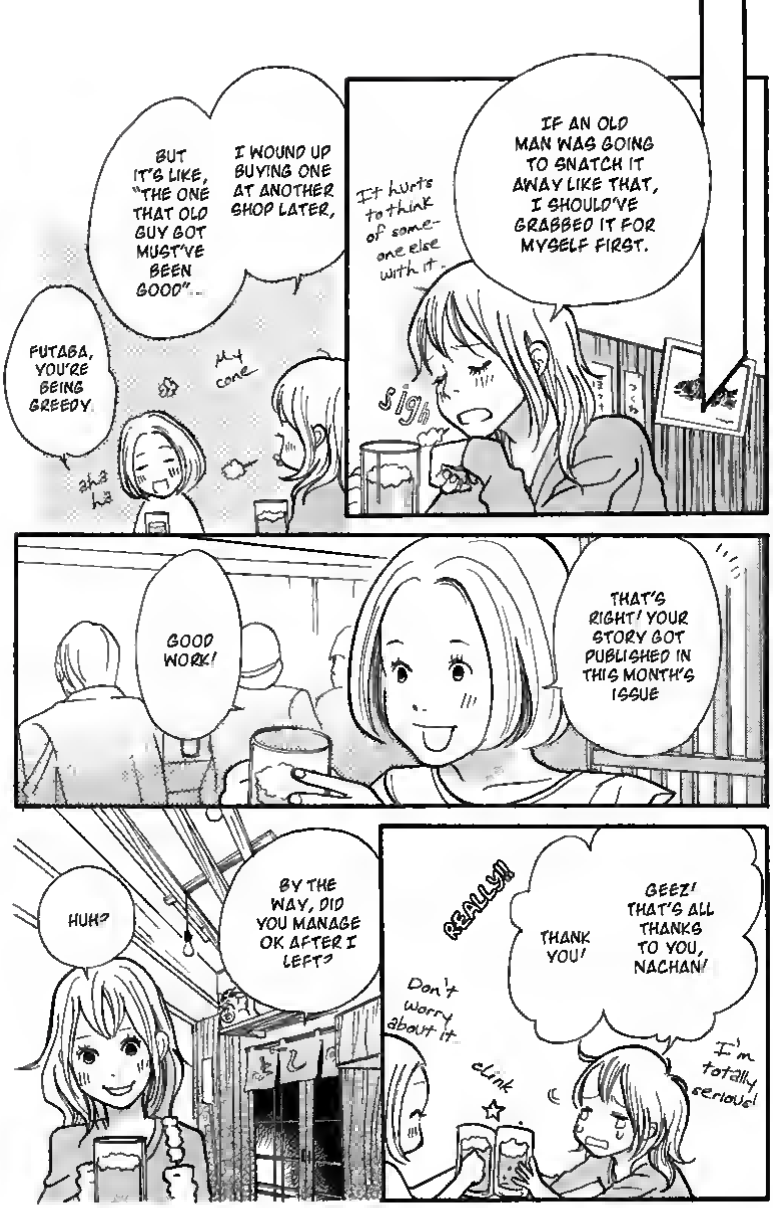
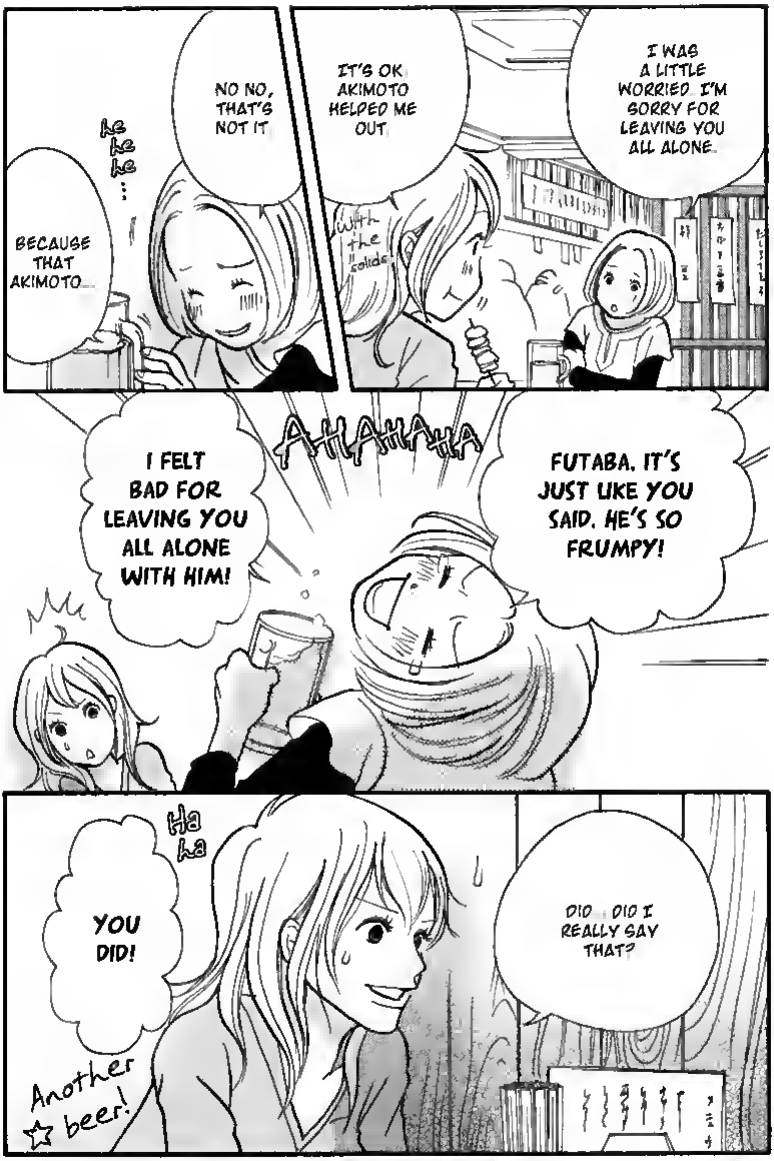
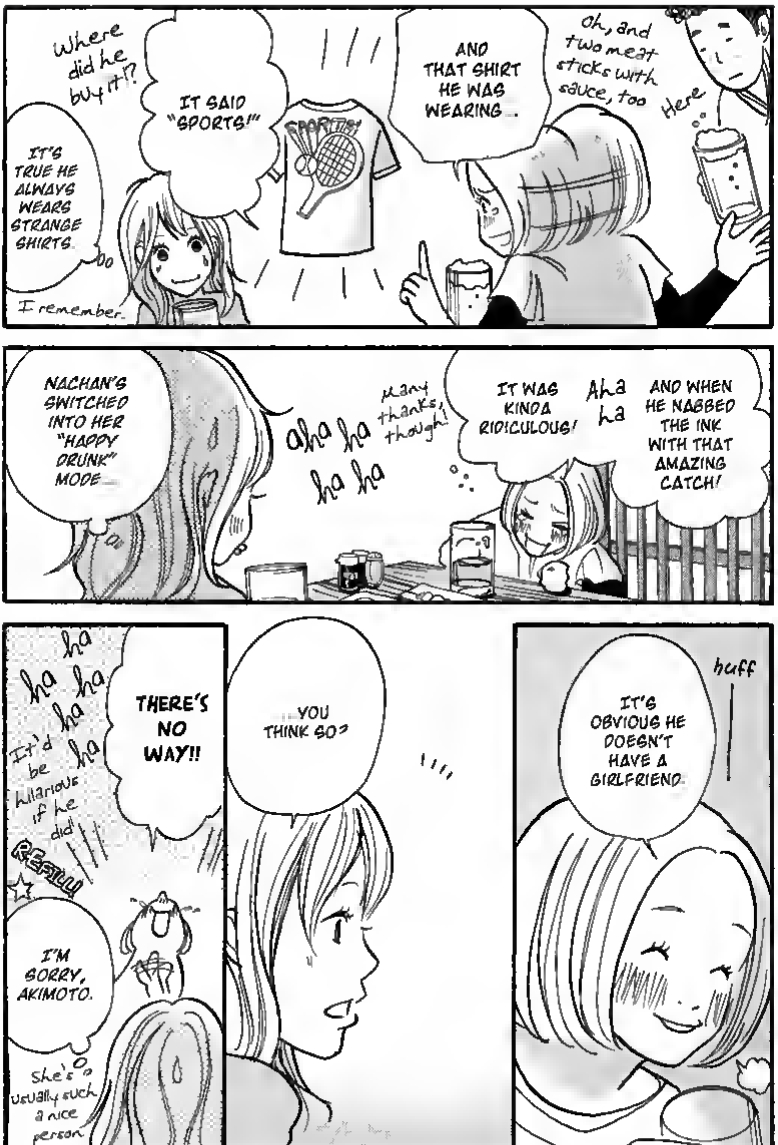
episode.04

click
click
HMMM——
Melon Bread
150 yen
DECISIONS, DECISIONS—
Chocolate Cone
168 yen

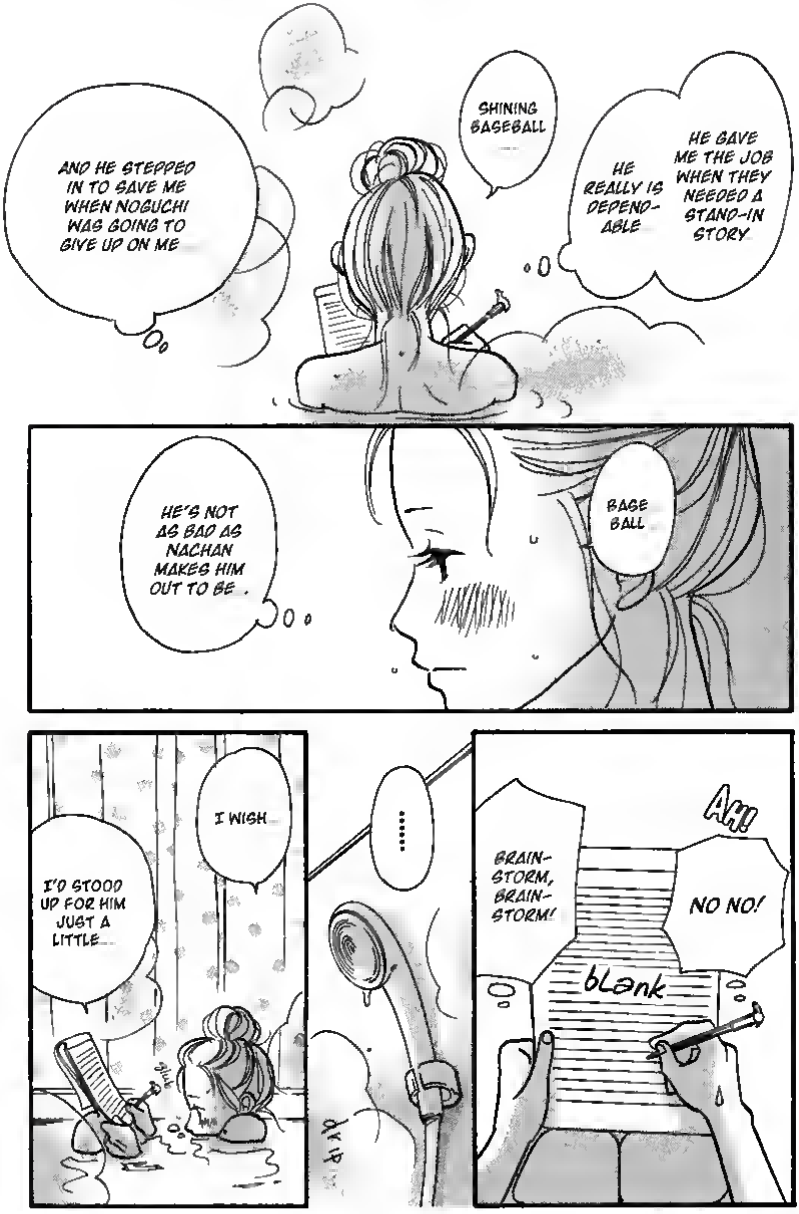

DECISIONS, DECISIONS... ANYWAY, I'LL GO GET THE FRENCH BREAD FIRST.
I WANTED IT THE SECOND I SAW IT,
BUT I CAME HERE TO BUY FRENCH BREAD AND IT LOOKS REALLY UNHEALTHY...
BUT I WANT IT.
stare
And there's only one left-
But, but-
Ah!
There!
Gah!
ding
758 YEN
NO! DON'T!
I WAS GOING TO BUY THAT!
Register
WAIT! MISTER!
Aren't you buying a whole bunch of other stuff?
SHRIEKING ON THE INSIDE


IF AN OLD MAN WAS GOING TO SNATCH IT AWAY LIKE THAT, I SHOULD'VE GRABBED IT FOR MYSELF FIRST.
It hurts to think of someone else with it.
sigh
I WOUND UP BUYING ONE AT ANOTHER SHOP LATER,
BUT IT'S LIKE, "THE ONE THAT OLD GUY GOT MUST'VE BEEN GOOD"...
FUTABA, YOU'RE BEING GREEDY.
my cone
aha ha
THAT'S RIGHT! YOUR STORY GOT PUBLISHED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE
GOOD WORK!
BY THE WAY, DID YOU MANAGE OK AFTER I LEFT?
HUH?
GEEZ! THAT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, NACHAN!
REALLY?!
THANK YOU!
I'm totally serious!
clink
Don't worry about it


I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED. I'M SORRY FOR LEAVING YOU ALL ALONE.
IT'S OK. AKIMOTO HELPED ME OUT.
With the collide
NO NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
He he he...
BECAUSE THAT AKIMOTO...
AHAHAHA
FUTABA, IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID. HE'S SO FRUMPY!
I FELT BAD FOR LEAVING YOU ALL ALONE WITH HIM!
DID... DID I REALLY SAY THAT?
Ha ha
YOU DID!
Another ☆ beer!


Where did he buy it!?
IT SAID "SPORTS!"
AND THAT SHIRT HE WAS WEARING...
Oh, and two meat sticks with sauce, too
Here
IT'S TRUE HE ALWAYS WEARS STRANGE SHIRTS.
I remember.
NACHAN'S SWITCHED INTO HER "HAPPY DRUNK" MODE...
aha ha ha ha
Many thanks, though!
IT WAS KINDA RIDICULOUS!
Aha ha
AND WHEN HE NABBED THE INK WITH THAT AMAZING CATCH!
huff
IT'S OBVIOUS HE DOESN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND.
...YOU THINK SO?
THERE'S NO WAY!!
ha ha ha ha ha
It'd be hilarious if he did!
REALLY!
I'M SORRY, AKIMOTO.
She's usually such a nice person

HAH— I DRANK LIKE A FISH.
AND I'VE GOT A MEETING COMING UP I'LL JUST BRAINSTORM WHILE HAVING A QUICK SOAK.
Brainstorm when the brain is nice and mushy ☆
Excuse to get drunk
rustle
GLUB GLUB.
NACHAN REALLY LOST IT LAUGHING TODAY.
UMMMM, SHINING BASEBALL...
drip
BUT HE'S GOT A SUR-PRISINGLY PRETTY FACE...
.....
MAYBE I JUST GOT USED TO HIM LOOKING LIKE THAT?
HOW ABOUT A SHINING SPACE LEAGUE?
IS HE REALLY THAT DORKY?

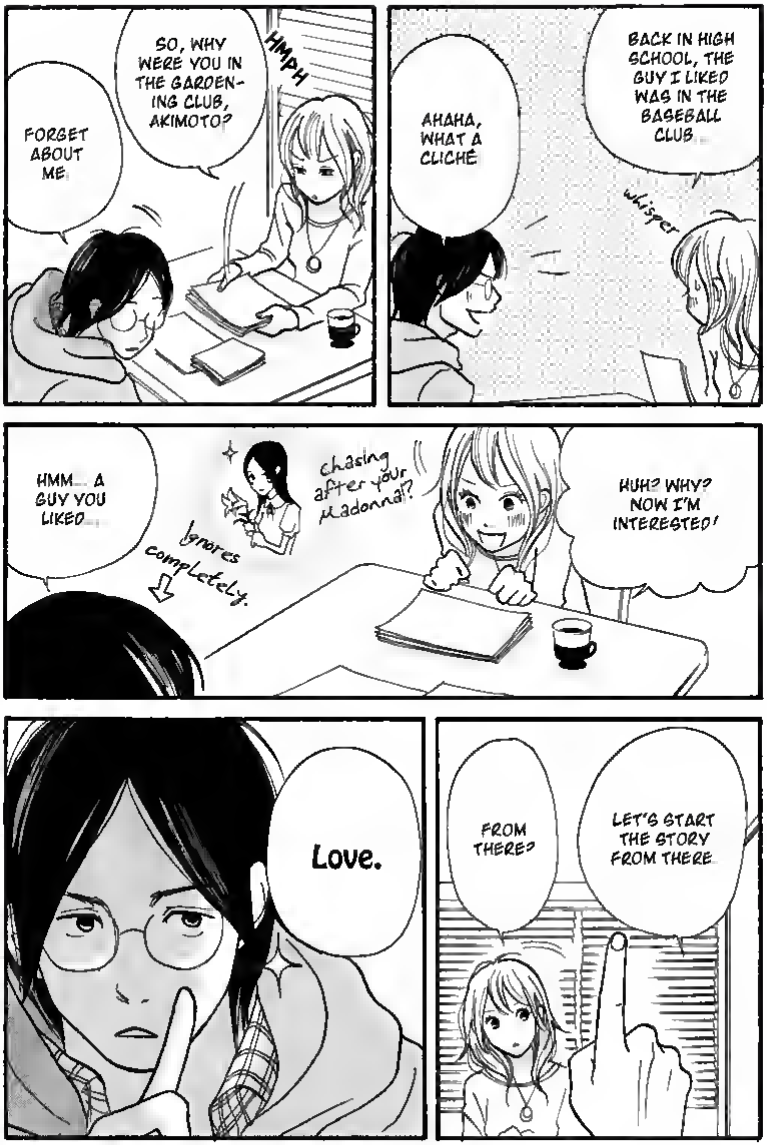

AND HE STEPPED IN TO SAVE ME WHEN NOBUCHI WAS GOING TO GIVE UP ON ME
SHINING BASEBALL
HE REALLY IS DEPEND-ABLE
HE GAVE ME THE JOB WHEN THEY NEEDED A STAND-IN STORY
HE'S NOT AS BAD AS NACHAN MAKES HIM OUT TO BE
BASE BALL
I WISH
I'D STOOD UP FOR HIM JUST A LITTLE
SNIF
.....
DRIP
AH!
BRAIN-STORM, BRAIN-STORM!
NO NO!
blank

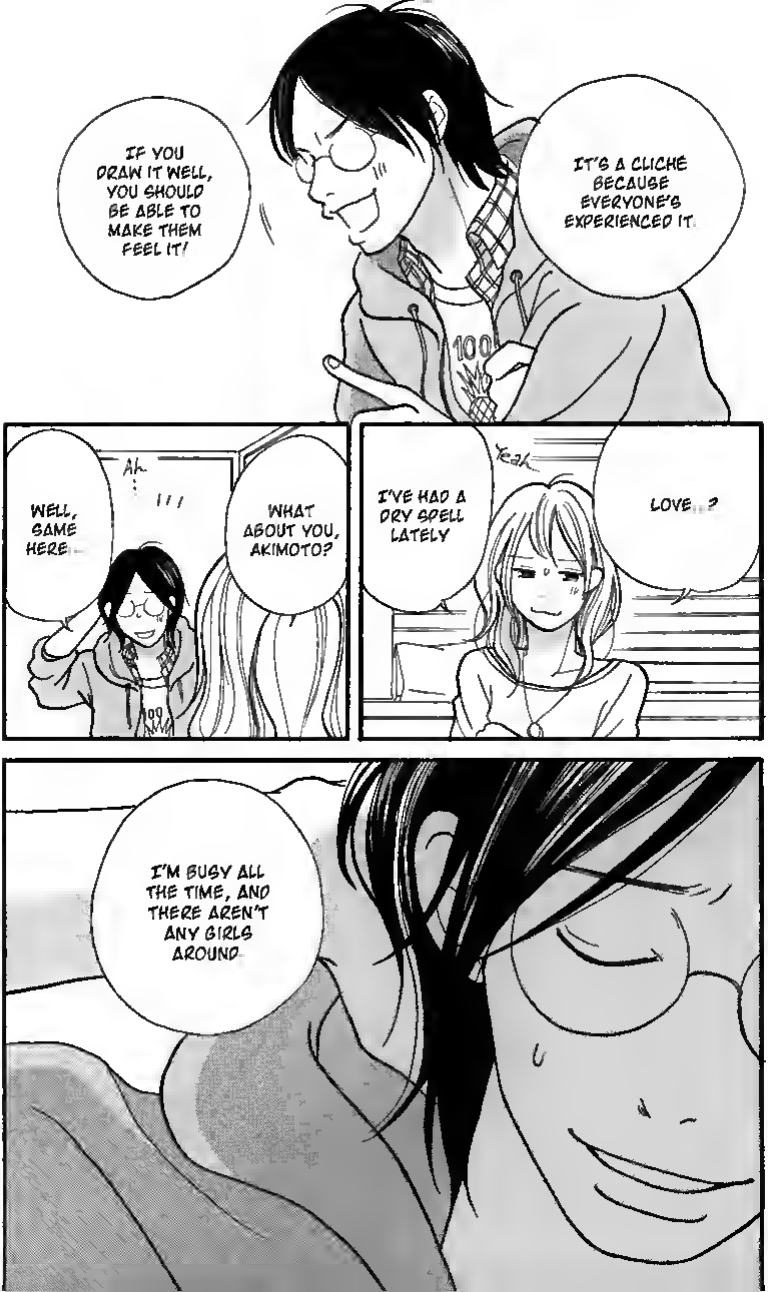
St
HELLO!
新文出版
*Houbun Publishing
WOBBLE
Ah... thanks for the hard work...
OH, HI FUTABA
AKIMOTO!!
It's really pouring, isn't it?
UMM
I REALLY DO HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR THAT QUICK TURN-AROUND
RIGHT THIS WAY
Another weird T-shirt
MAYBE HE REALLY IS DORKY
WOBBLE WOBBLE...
100%

—SO, WE GOT THE RESULTS OF THE READER SURVEY...
BDMP
RIGHT!
TO BE HONEST... THEY WEREN'T VERY GOOD
THAT IS...
THEY WERE BAD.
TO
NK
DUN
UGH... THAT SO...
MAYBE I WAS TOO FIXATED ON BASEBALL
gloom...

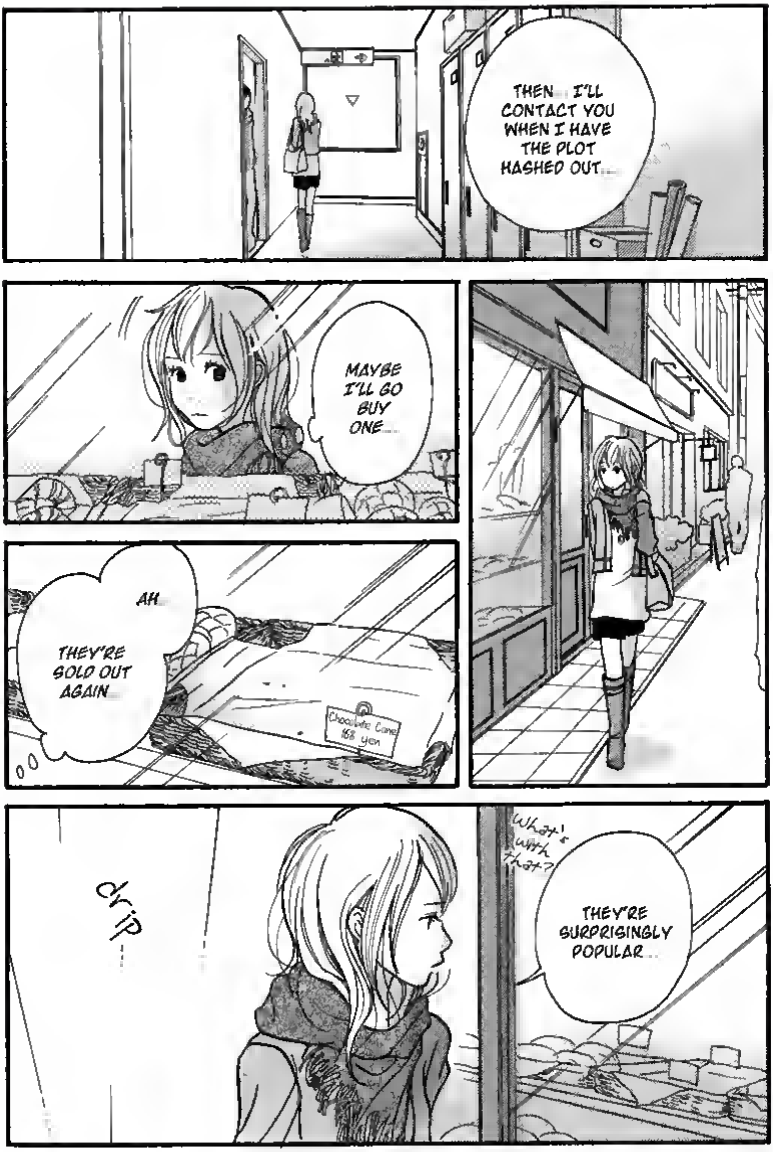
DO YOU WANT TO DRAW ABOUT BASEBALL?
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, FUTABA?
OK, THEN IT'LL WORK OUT!
LET'S DRAW!
YES, I DO!
ALSO, YOUR SURVEY RESULTS HIT BOTH EXTREMES.
Oh!

What's your favorite manga?
Football
Please write your impressions and opinions of the manga in First Star
When will "Beloved Truck Guy" resume?
SOME SAID THEY HATED IT,
BUT THERE WERE ALSO QUITE A FEW WHO SAID THEY REALLY LIKED IT.
other team" was
I think I want
to read more
Please write your impressions and opinions of the manga in First Star
Futaba Towako's manga was really interesting
I liked her series too.
but today's oneshot was
right on the mark.
EVEN WHEN SOMEONE SAYS THEY "HATED" IT, THAT MEANS IT LEFT AN IMPRESSION. IT GIVES YOU A CHANCE.
IT'S A GOOD SIGN.
Oh
BY THE WAY, WHY DO YOU LIKE BASEBALL?
flinch!!
WELL...
EXACTLY.
BECAUSE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS?
Like love
100%


FORGET ABOUT ME.
SO, WHY WERE YOU IN THE GARDENING CLUB, AKIMOTO?
HMPH
AHAHA, WHAT A CLICHÉ
BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL, THE GUY I LIKED WAS IN THE BASEBALL CLUB...
whisper
HMM... A GUY YOU LIKED...
chasing after your Madonna!?
ignores completely.
HUH? WHY? NOW I'M INTERESTED!
Love.
FROM THERE?
LET'S START THE STORY FROM THERE.


IF YOU DRAW IT WELL, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM FEEL IT!
IT'S A CLICHÉ BECAUSE EVERYONE'S EXPERIENCED IT.
WELL, SAME HERE...
Ah...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AKIMOTO?
I'VE HAD A DRY SPELL LATELY
Yeah
LOVE...?
I'M BUSY ALL THE TIME, AND THERE AREN'T ANY GIRLS AROUND.

Well, I'm really just too shy, too.
HUH... BUT
THERE ARE
As for what's next-
Ah!
Wait, forget about me!
THERE ARE, AREN'T THERE?
If you could get me a new storyboard by next month...


THEN... I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN I HAVE THE PLOT HASHED OUT...
MAYBE I'LL GO BUY ONE...
AH...
THEY'RE SOLD OUT AGAIN...
Chocolate Cake 69 yen
drip
WHAT?
WHAT?
THEY'RE SURPRISINGLY POPULAR...

Sst
AH!
CRAP, MY UMBRELLA!
I LEFT IT AT THE PUBLISHER...
~~~
I CAN BUY AN UMBRELLA AT A CORNER STORE,
AND I'M SURE THE NEXT SHOP WILL HAVE CHOCOLATE CONES
And yet,
why
do I feel like this?
~~~

Waiting for
a response.

PEN AND CHOCOLATE

NEMU YOKO

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
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CHAPTER 5
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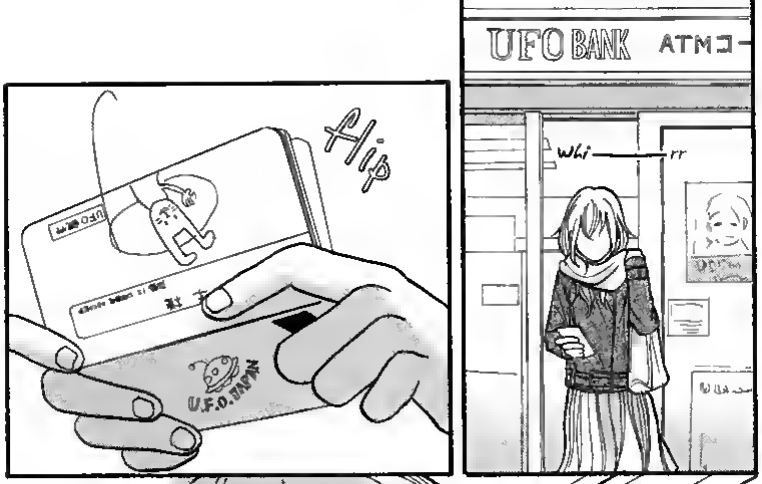
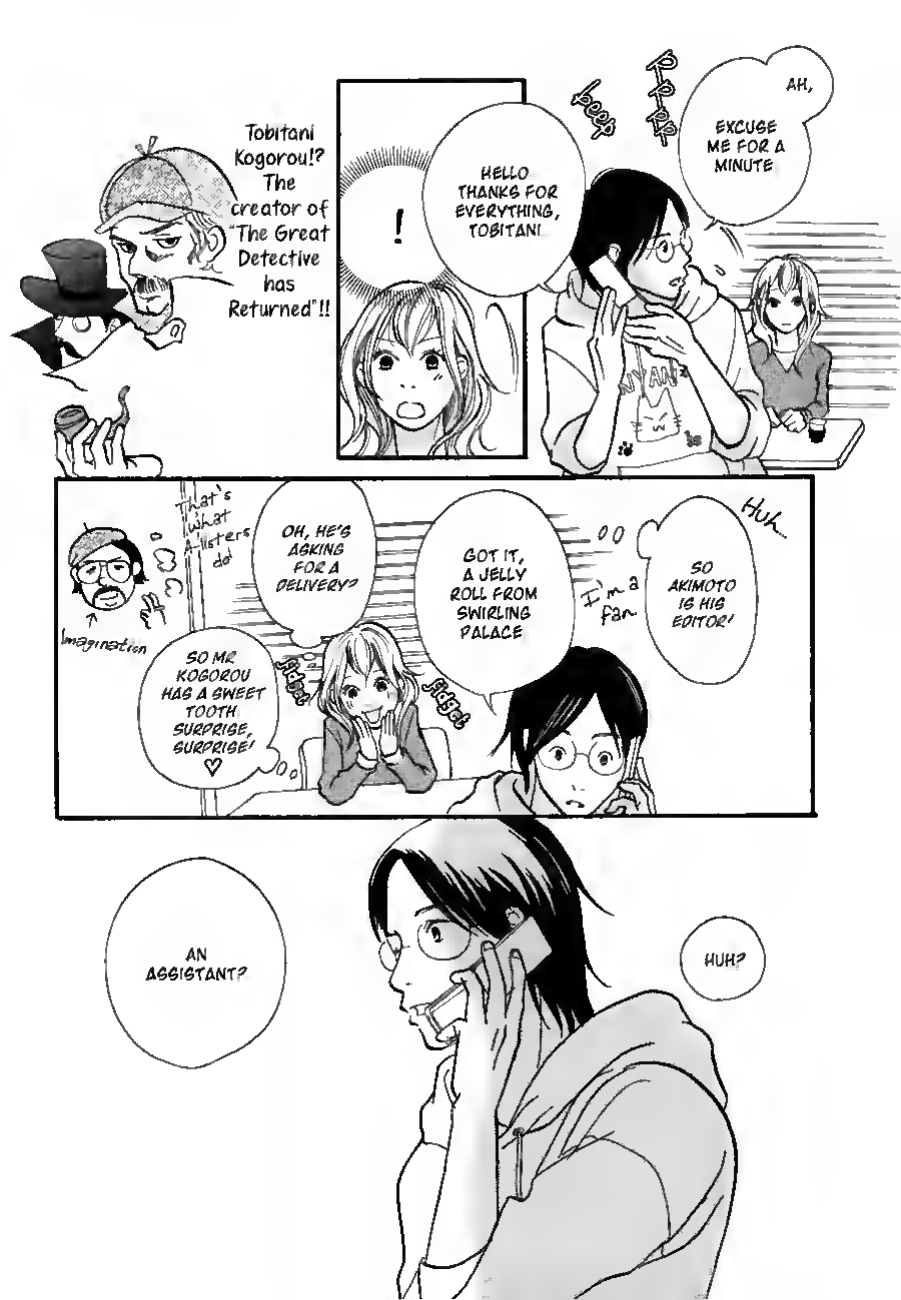
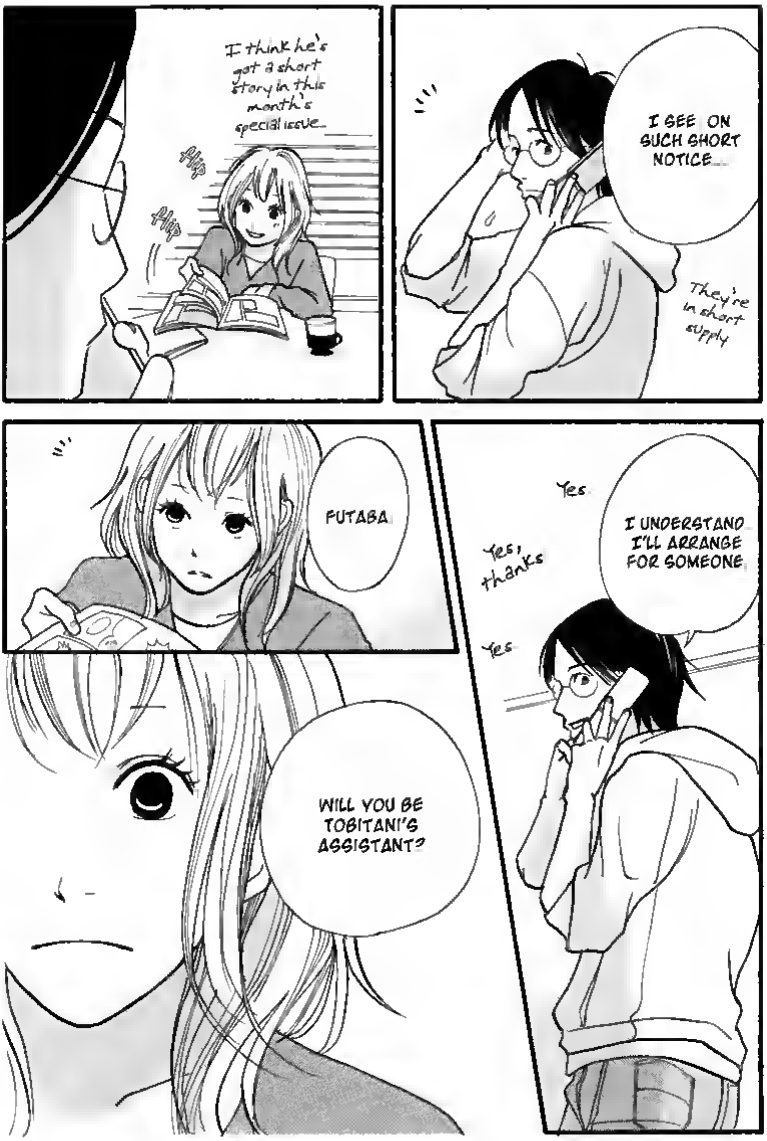


episode 05

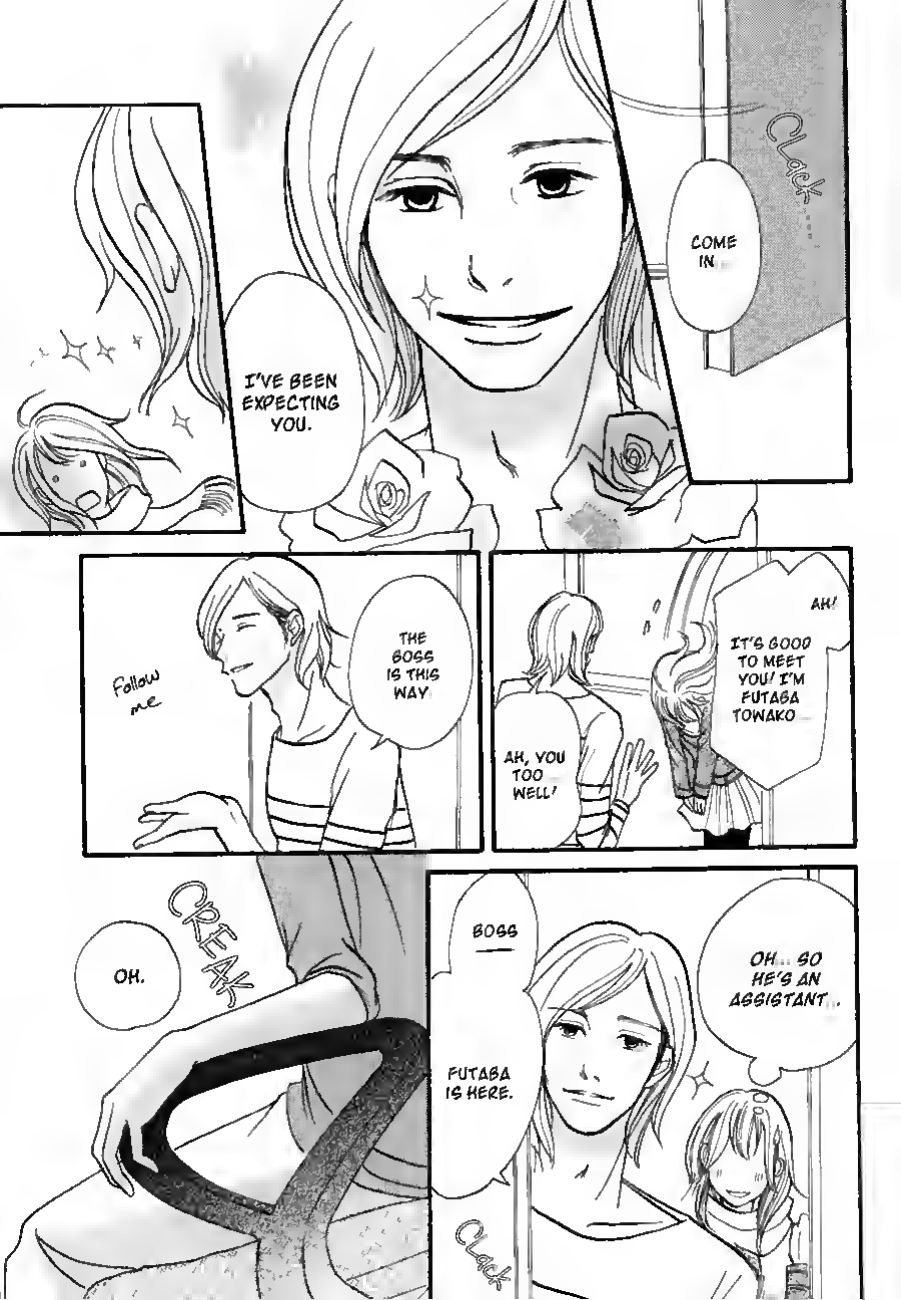
Ahh, please let him accept this storyboard!
REJECTED.
*Houbun Publishing
I'M NOT BEING PUBLISHED REGULARLY ANYMORE WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I KNOW HOW TO DO...
WHAT'S MY SKILL SET?
YEAH
DUN—!
Well...
HOW CAN I SAY THIS...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOUR USUAL WORK, FUTABA...
MAYBE IT'S THAT YOU WERE HYPER-AWARE THAT IT'S FOR THE SPECIAL ISSUE...

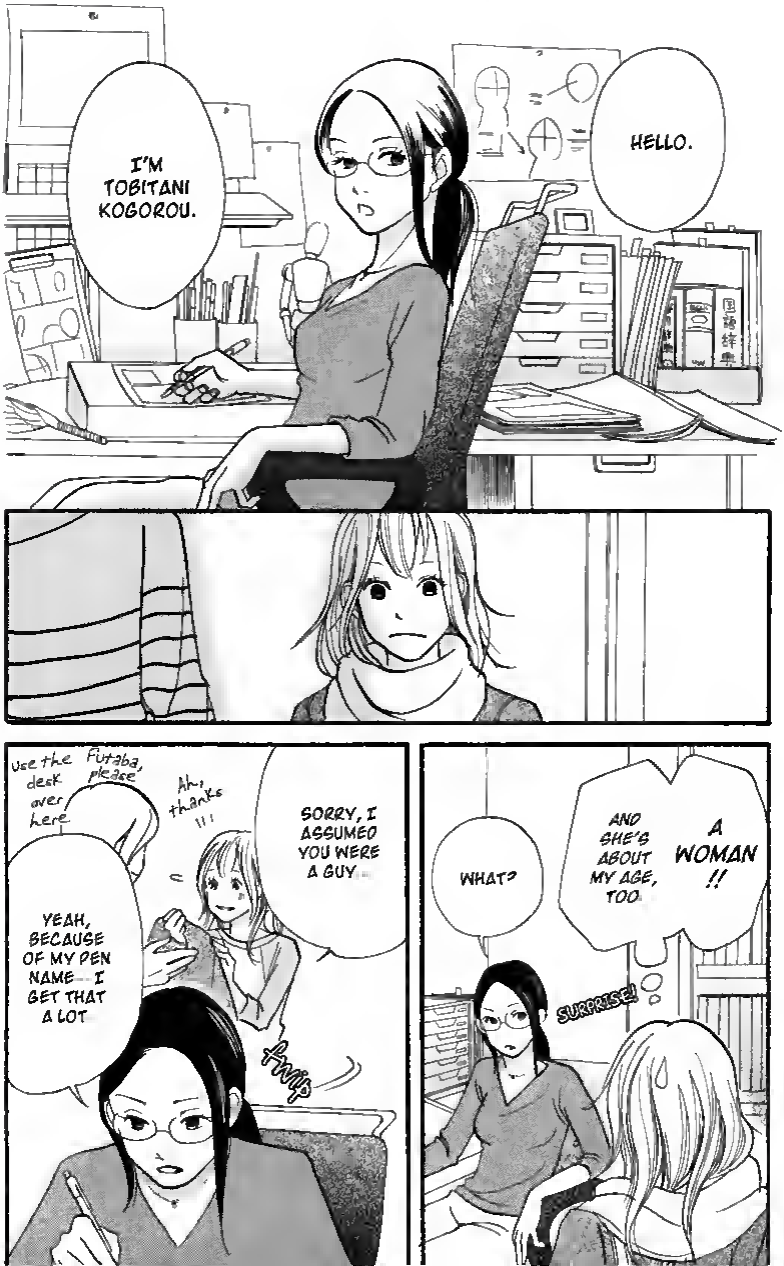
THAT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF IT, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T LET IT INFLUENCE YOU TOO MUCH...
NYAN
Was my reasoning...
BUT THE SPECIAL ISSUE IS A LITTLE CUTESY, SO I SHOULD AIM FOR THAT VIBE...
FIRSTY STAR
MORE REVI-SIONS!?
!
REVISE IT ONCE MORE FOR NEXT MONTH'S MEETING...
FUTABA, WHEN YOU'RE DRAWING THIS, YOU NEED TO REALLY..
.....
RRRRR
IT'S GOT GOOD PACING, AND THERE'S A PART THE READERS CAN REALLY SINK THEIR TEETH INTO
If it was Noguchi, he'd say OK for sure!
OK!
Yeah!
OK!


Tobitani Kogorou!? The creator of "The Great Detective has Returned"!!
!
HELLO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, TOBITANI
beep
Pi Pi Pi
AH, EXCUSE ME FOR A MINUTE
That's what A-listers do!
Imagination
SO MR KOGOROU HAS A SWEET TOOTH SURPRISE, SURPRISE! ♡
OH, HE'S ASKING FOR A DELIVERY?
Jiggah
Jiggah
GOT IT, A JELLY ROLL FROM SWIRLING PALACE
I'm a fan
Huh...
SO AKIMOTO IS HIS EDITOR!
AN ASSISTANT?
HUH?

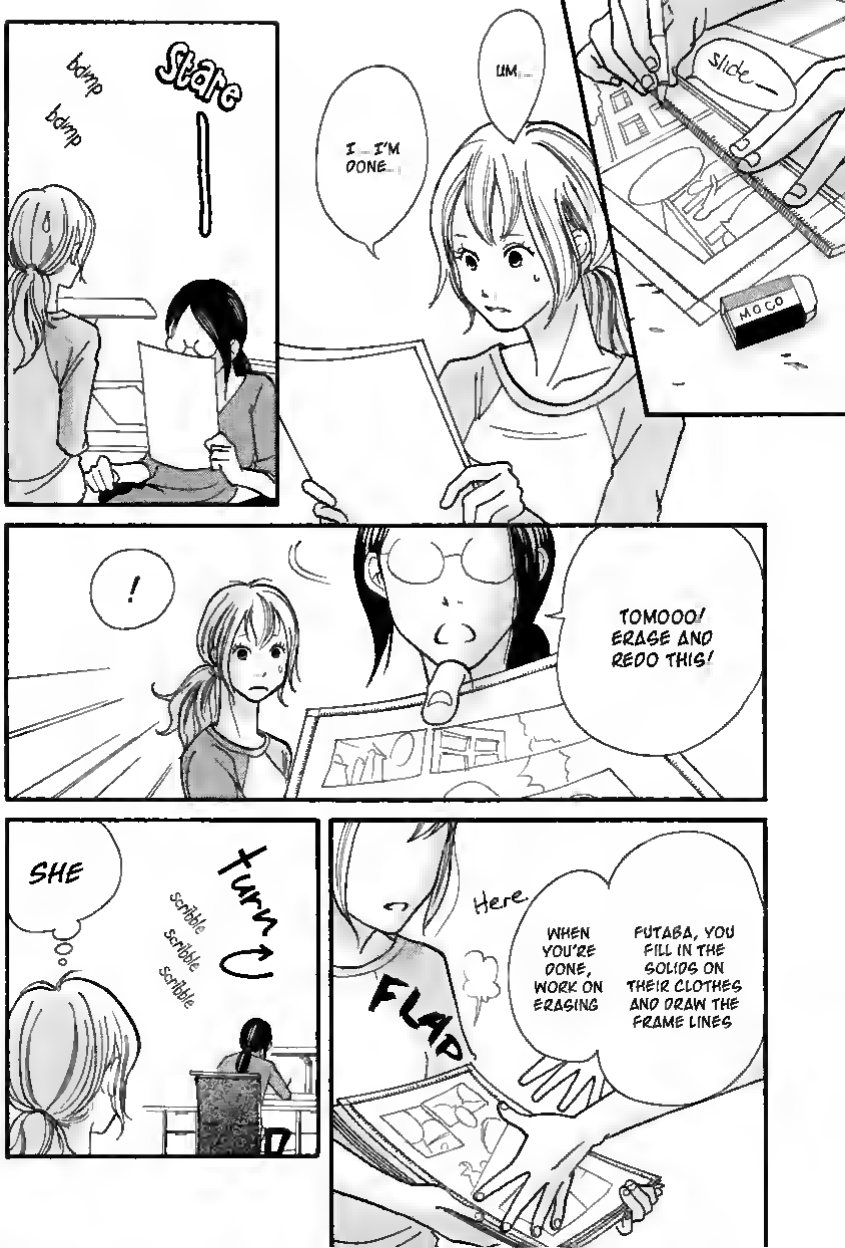

I think he's got a short story in this month's special issue...
Hmm
Hmm
I SEE. ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE...
They're in short supply
FUTABA
WILL YOU BE TOBITANI'S ASSISTANT?
Yes
Yes, thanks
Yes
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL ARRANGE FOR SOMEONE

.....
bdump bdump bdump bdump bdump
AFTER HE SAID THAT, I ACCEPTED WITHOUT THINKING, BUT...
Plus it's only for 2 days
IT'LL BE GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR YOU TO WATCH HOW OTHER ARTISTS DRAW.
YES.
UM, THE ASSIS-TANT!
AH, IT'S FUTABA
AH, YES I'LL BUZZ YOU IN NOW PLEASE COME UP
Ding Dong
UGH!
Call
Persistent Imagination
It's THE Tobitani Kougorou, you know!
I-I-I'M SO NERVOUS


Clack...
COME IN...
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
Follow me
THE BOSS IS THIS WAY
AH, YOU TOO WELL!
AH!
IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU! I'M FUTABA TOWAKO...
CREAK
OH.
BOSS
FUTABA IS HERE.
Clack
OH... SO HE'S AN ASSISTANT...


HELLO.
I'M TOBITANI KOGOROU.
SORRY, I ASSUMED YOU WERE A GUY...
Use the desk over here.
Futaba, please.
Ah, thanks!!!
YEAH, BECAUSE OF MY PEN NAME... I GET THAT A LOT.
Pwip
WHAT?
AND SHE'S ABOUT MY AGE, TOO.
A WOMAN!!
SURPRISE!

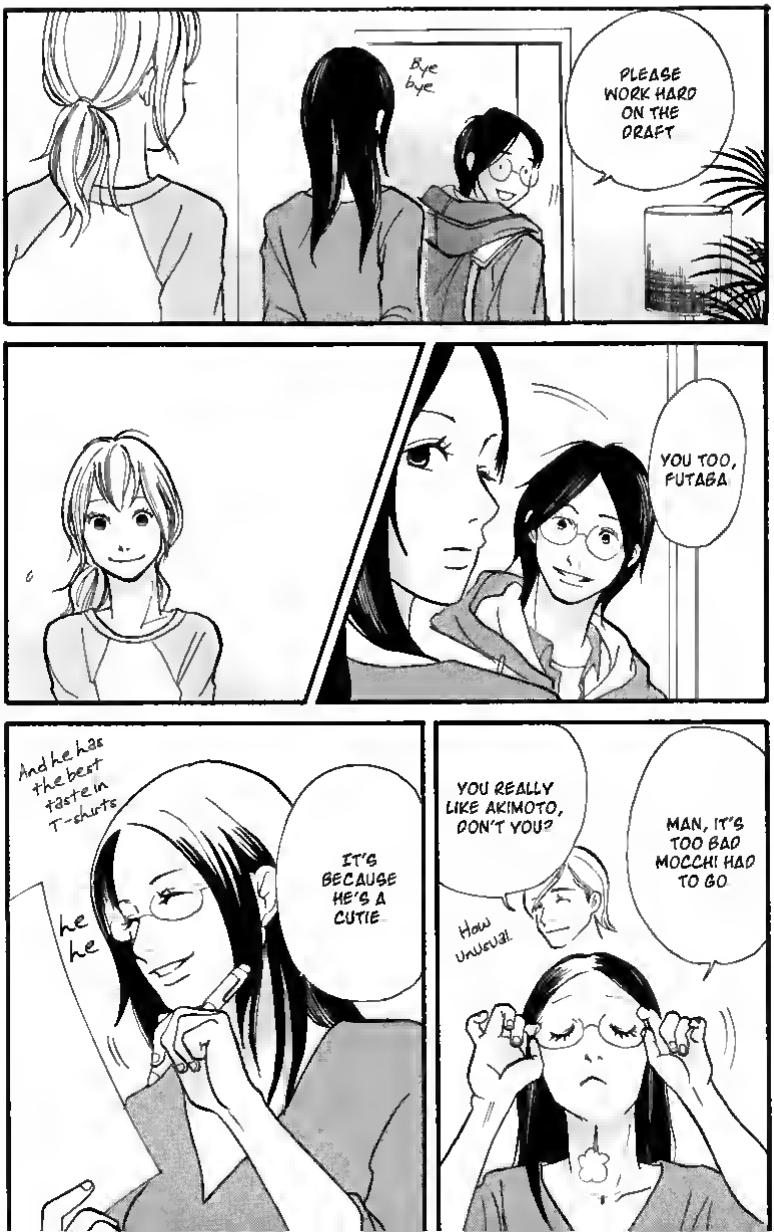
!
ARE YOU THE ONE BEHIND TAROU AND HANAKO..?
OH... I'M FUTABA
I HAD A SERIES IN FIRST STAR UNTIL JUST RECENTLY..
DO YOU USUALLY WORK AS AN ASSISTANT? UM...
HMM
YES!
THAT'S RIGHT, LATELY I'VE BEEN LEAVING ALL THIS STUFF FOR NACHAN TO DO.
OK
OK
OVER HERE, USE A LOW ANGLE LIKE THIS
CAN I DO A GOOD JOB? WATCH OVER ME, NACHAN!
Sure thing!
HERE, TAKE CARE OF THE BACKGROUND FOR ME.
GOOD, THEN


slide
MOCO
UM...
I...I'M DONE...
Stare
bdump
bdump
TOMOOO! ERASE AND REDO THIS!
!
FUTABA, YOU FILL IN THE SOLIDS ON THEIR CLOTHES AND DRAW THE FRAME LINES
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, WORK ON ERASING
Here
FLAP
Turn
scribble
scribble
scribble
SHE

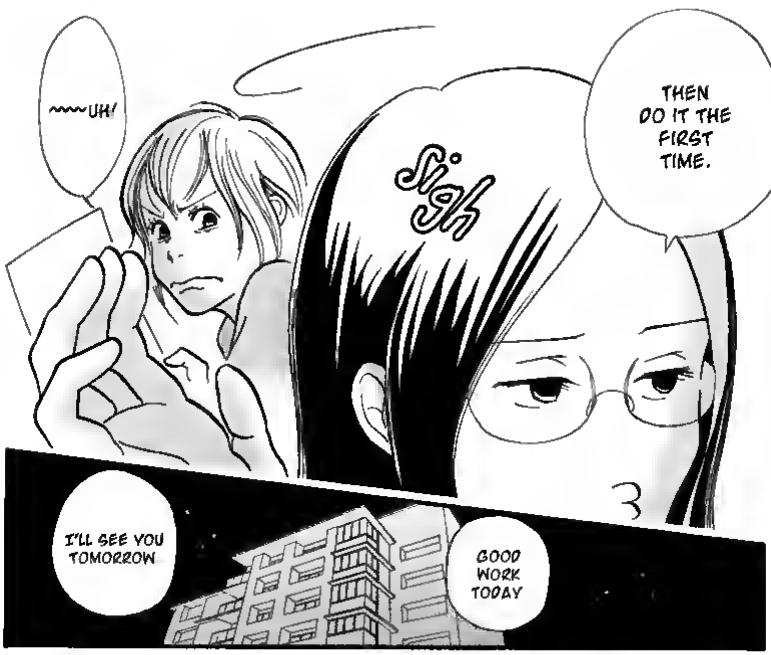
I'M SORRY I CAN'T DO IT!
AND IT'S MY JOB, TOO
But...
Solids
Frame Lines
Erase
Simple Tasks
She gave up on me!!
scribble
scribble
scribble
scribble
scribble
But there's something about her...
Rustle
Swip
OH, AKIMOTO.
GOT IT.
TOMO!
God girl—

Akimoto
↓
Akimotocchi
↓
Akimocchi
↓
Mocchi
Mocchi !?
YOU'RE LATE. MOCCHI! ♡
HONESTLY!
Whirl
DUMB-FOUNDED...
Whee!
OH, YOU WERE?
I WAS IN LINE FOR THREE HOURS
THIS IS JUST WHAT I WANTED! THANKS, MOCCHI! ♡
A vanilla roll from Swirling Palace!
THANKS FOR WORKING SO HARD I BROUGHT SNACKS
Whee!
Whee!
Oh!
HOW'RE YOU DOING?
....
OH, FUTABA GOOD WORK
And, um— Futaba, you too!
TOMO! LET'S HAVE SOME TEA!
clock

LOOK OVER HERE! ♡
A 60 inch plasma TV! ♡
My shock
WHOA, YOU FINALLY BOUGHT ONE!?
MOCCHI!!!
AH...
YES!
my
YUP! ♡ I KNEW YOU'D LOVE IT.
he he
THAT'S THE REASON YOU BOUGHT IT.
WHOA, IT'S AMAZING! SO NICE, IT'S SO NICE!
And black, it's black!
I'LL BE OFF, THEN.
You can try it out! ♡ Just for you, Mocchi
Whee!
Really!?
Whee!


Bye bye
PLEASE WORK HARD ON THE DRAFT
YOU TOO, FUTABA
And he has the best taste in T-shirts
he he
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A CUTIE
YOU REALLY LIKE AKIMOTO, DON'T YOU?
How unusual!
MAN, IT'S TOO BAD MOCCHI HAD TO GO

STUFF LIKE THIS DOESN'T BOTHER YOU?
Y-YES!
FUTABA
.....
Extends Slightly
I CAN'T STAND IT. STUFF LIKE THIS HAS TO BE EXACT.
TOMO, FIX THIS...
I-I'LL DO IT!
OH, SO YOU CAN DO IT?


UH!
Sigh
THEN DO IT THE FIRST TIME.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW
GOOD WORK TODAY

I DON'T WANT TO GO!
Surprisingly badly!!
tromp
tromp
ONE MORE DAY...
I-

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
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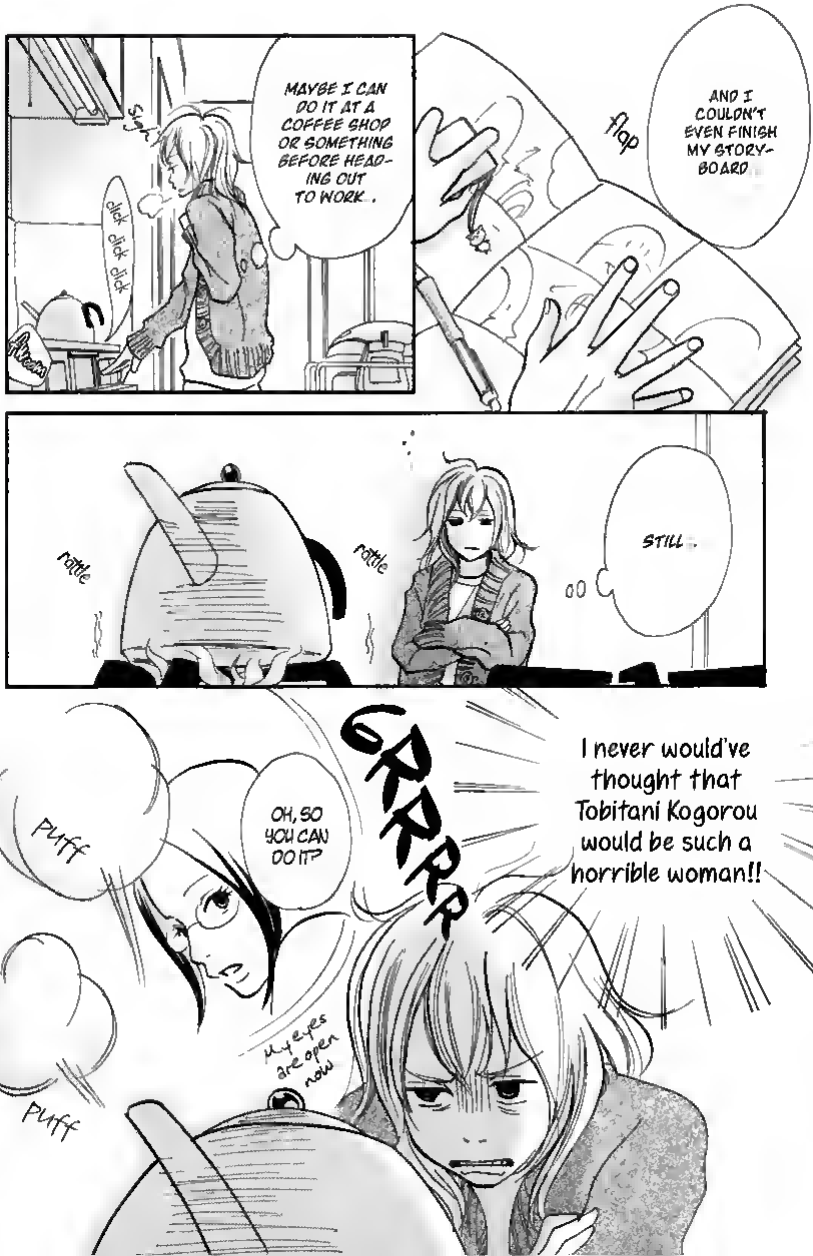
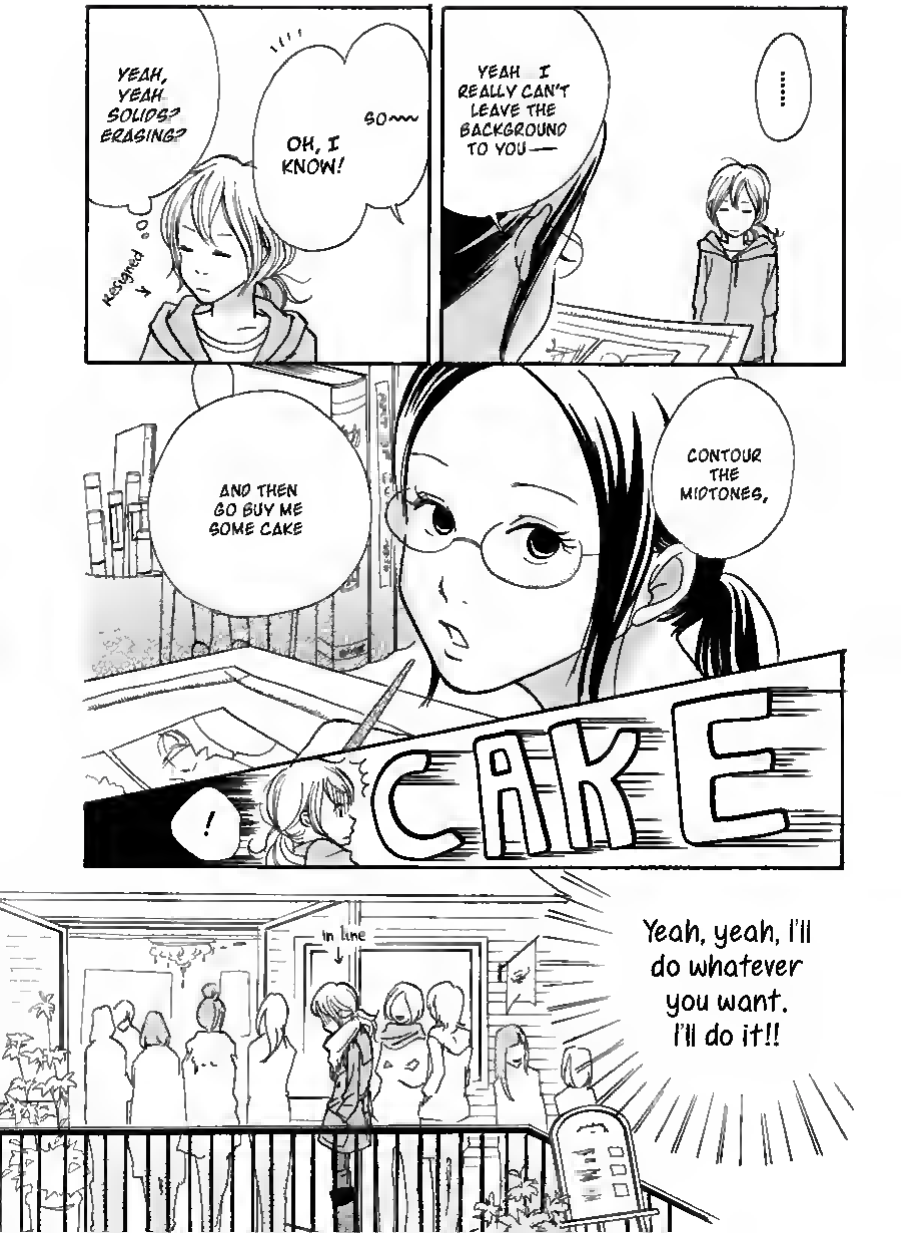
GRAB
jingle
jingle
jingle
UH...
jingle
jingle
BE HER ASSIS-TANT...
MAN— I DON'T WANT TO GO...
beep
episode.06

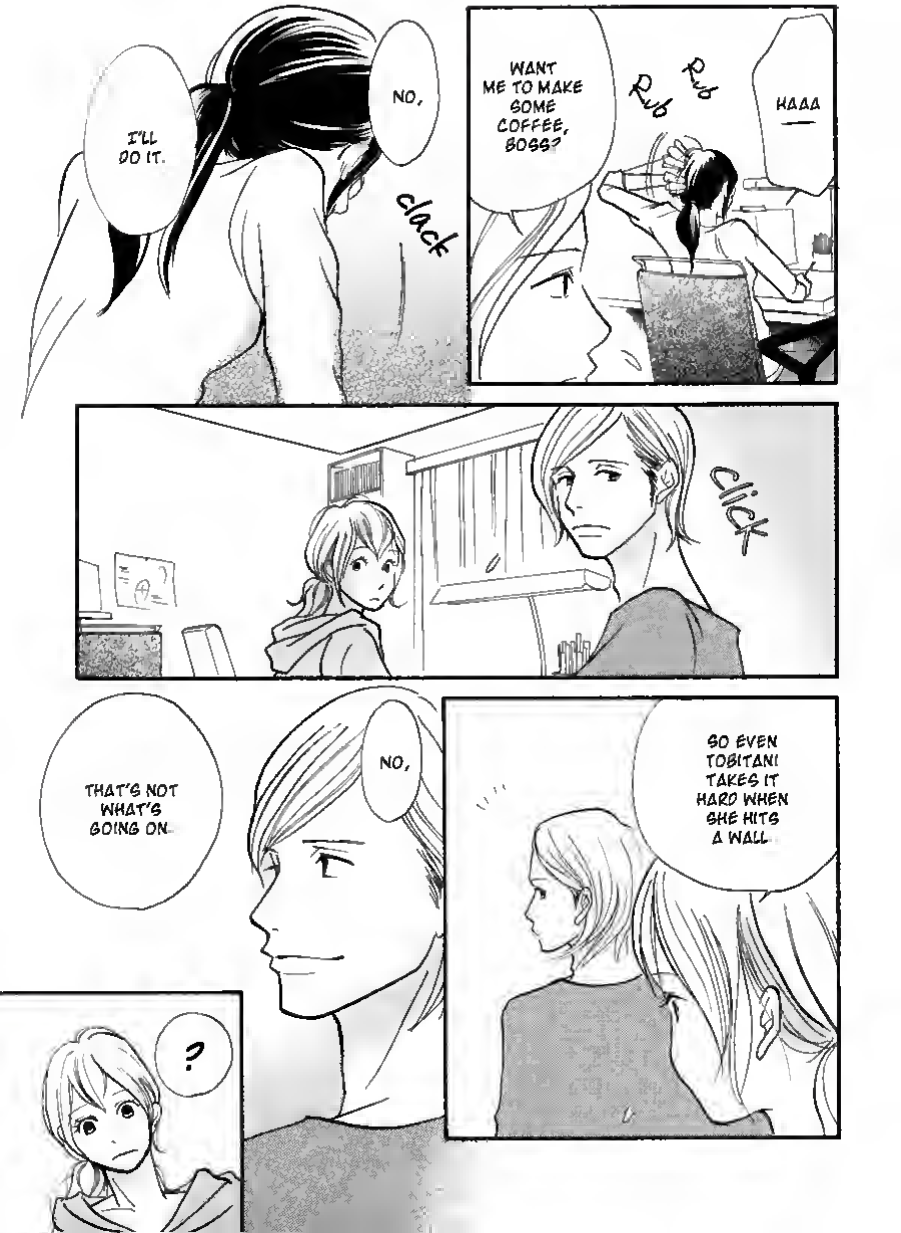

MAYBE I CAN DO IT AT A COFFEE SHOP OR SOMETHING BEFORE HEADING OUT TO WORK..
Sigh
click click click
Yawn
AND I COULDN'T EVEN FINISH MY STORYBOARD...
flap
STILL..
rattle
rattle
I never would've thought that Tobitani Kogorou would be such a horrible woman!!
GRRRR
OH, SO YOU CAN DO IT?
PUFF
PUFF
my eyes are open now

Dammit !!
I'll just Spew WHITE-OUT ON IT! Spew!
I CAN DO IT!
Mimic
Oh, so you can do it?
click
MOCCHII
AND...
*Dramatization
HE ONLY BROUGHT ME JUNK FOOD FROM THE CORNER STORE~!!
I'm not good enough?
You're so mean!!
CHOCO
EVEN AKIMOTO WAS GETTING ALL GOOGLY-EYED OVER HER PLASMA TV!
LAME!
AND HE BROUGHT HER CAKE ROLLS!

.....
Wonders
bustle
bustle
NOTHING'S WORKING OUT...
Dammit
GAH — WHAT'S HE LOOKING FOR~?
IT'S USELESS... I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING...
swipe
swipe
REDRAW THIS.

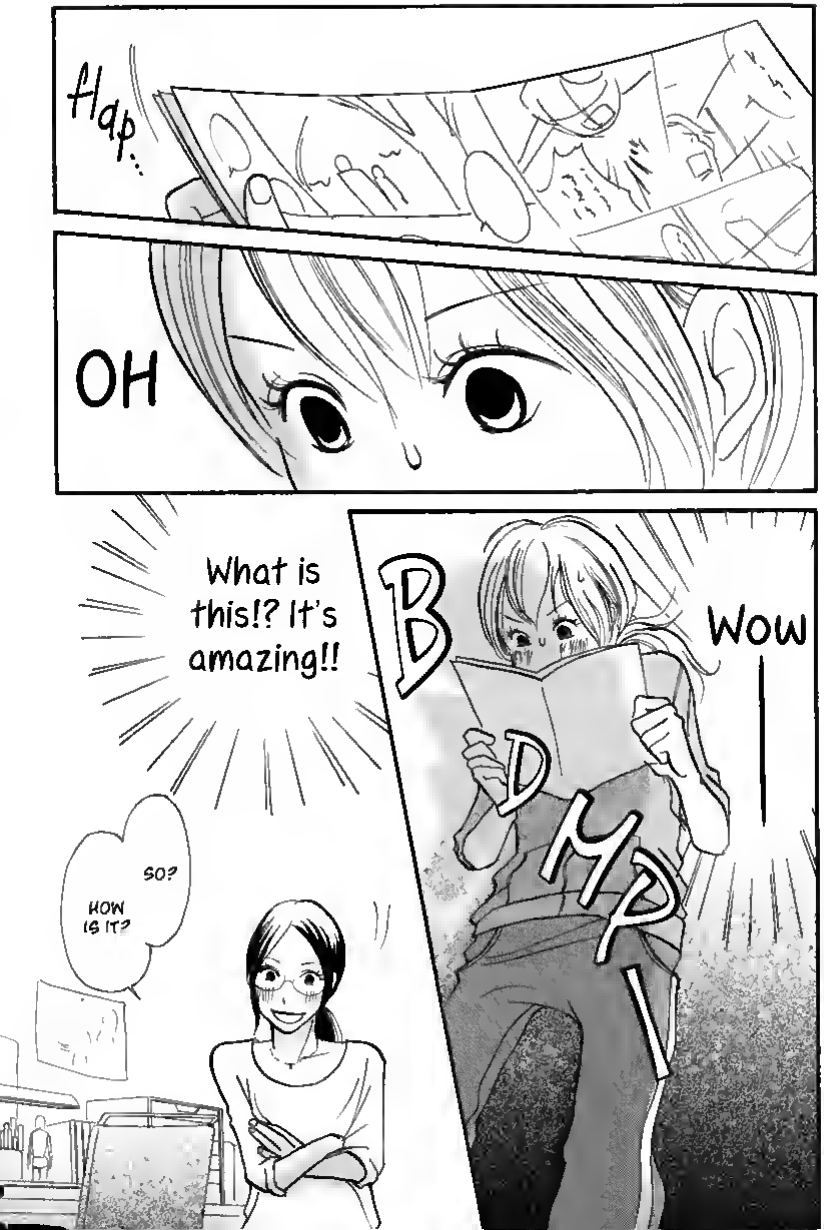

YEAH, YEAH. SOLIDS? ERASING?
OH, I KNOW!
SO~~
Resigned
YEAH I REALLY CAN'T LEAVE THE BACKGROUND TO YOU——
……
AND THEN GO BUY ME SOME CAKE
CONTOUR THE MIDTONES,
CAKE
!
In line
Yeah, yeah, I'll do whatever you want. I'll do it!!

clack
scribble scribble scribble
I'M BACK
HEY
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
SHE'S REALLY FOCUSED.
Or is she ignoring me?!
clack
HM?
WHOA, AREN'T THESE ALL THE SAME SCENE!?
HOW MANY TIMES HAS SHE REDRAWN IT...?
Swipe swipe


I'LL DO IT.
NO,
clack
WANT ME TO MAKE SOME COFFEE, BOSS?
Rub
Rub
HAAA
click
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S GOING ON.
NO,
SO EVEN TOBITANI TAKES IT HARD WHEN SHE HITS A WALL
?

SHOCK
I GOT IT!!
CLATTER
sclape
sclape
sclape
GOT IT, GOT IT ~♪
Hip
THAT SCARED ME!
I was scraping the midtones, you know!
WHAT'S THE RUSH!?
Scrape Scrape
And why's she in such a good mood?
AH, HELLO MOCCHI?
YEAH, WELL—
I'M CHANGING THE LAST SCENE COMPLETELY
!

IT'LL BE MUCH BETTER THIS WAY.
YEAH, DON'T WORRY
Huh... the last scene? But aren't we adding the finishing touches to it now!?
Isn't the deadline tomorrow!?
You sure!? The backgrounds so detailed!? And the train!?
UH UH
UH UH UH
GOT IT SEEYA!
YEAH, I'LL SEND THE STORYBOARD OVER SOON
YOU TOO, FUTABA! LOOK, LOOK!
Whirl
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS IS MUCH BETTER!
HEY TOMO, TAKE A LOOK!
ISN'T IT!?

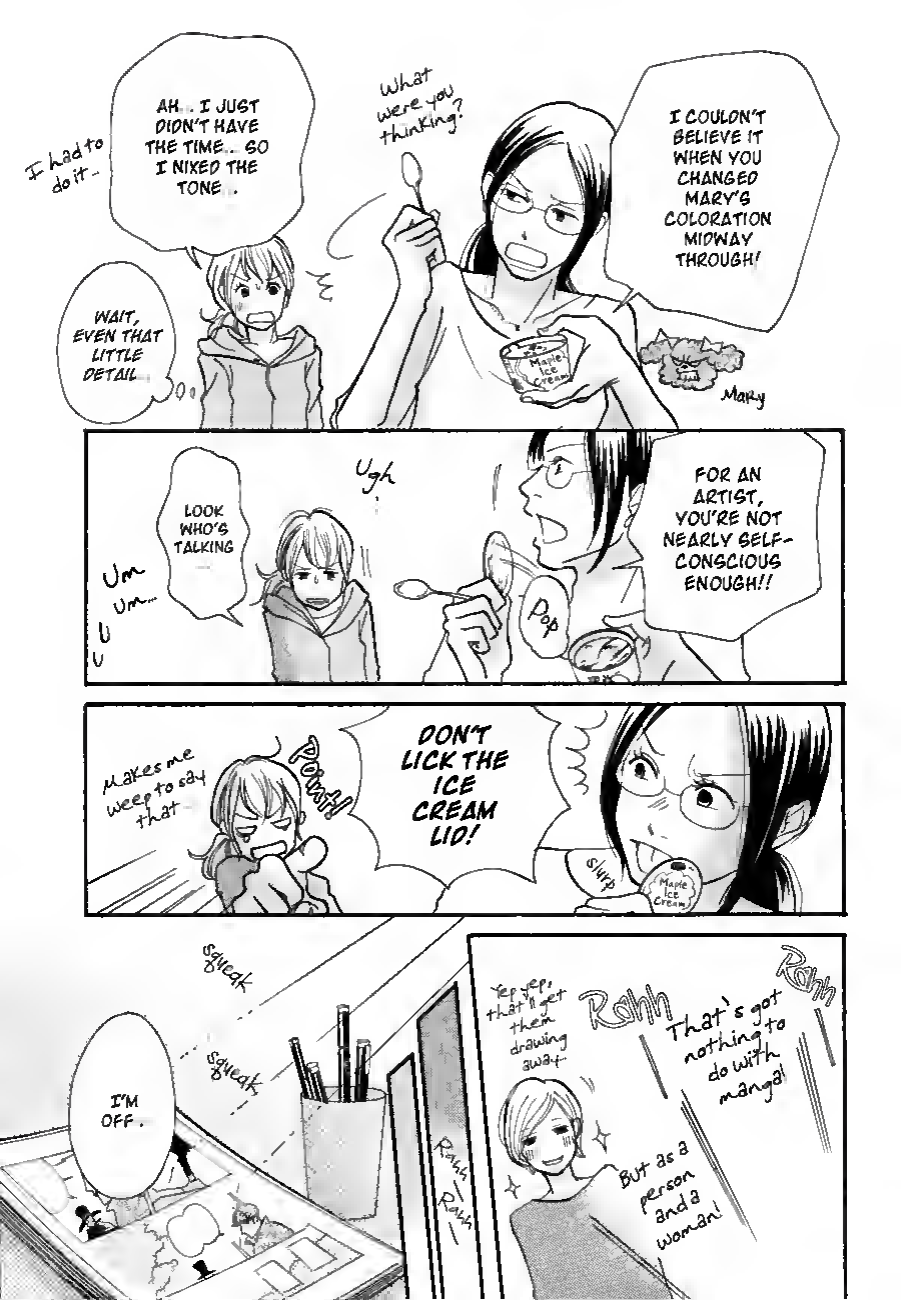

flap...
OH
What is this!? It's amazing!!
B
D
M
P
I
Wow
SO?
HOW IS IT?

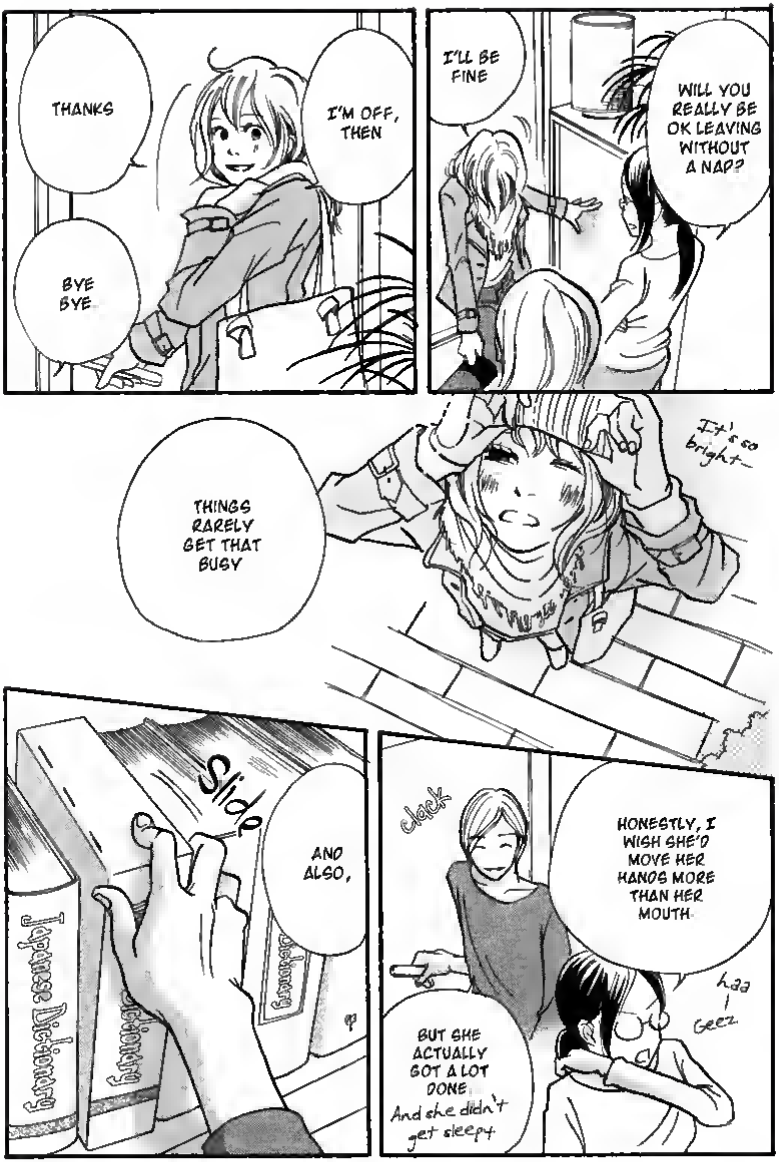
GREAT!
IT'S MAKING MY HEART RACE!!
TH-THIS IS AMAZING!!
REALLY!?
Wow!
ALRIGHT, GOTTA FAX IT OVER!
♪
!
So this is how she creates her manga...
I'll send this and then it's cake time
Yeah... she really is Tobitani Kogorou.

Well, it's going to get busy.
CAKE, CAKE ♡
and all the work that was wasted.
she'll brush straight past deadline concerns
in order to draw a good story,
Dazed
TOBITAN! KOGORO REALLY IS AMAZING...
.....
bohp
bohp
bohp
I THINK
THAT SHE CAN'T HELP BUT ENJOY HER OWN WORK...

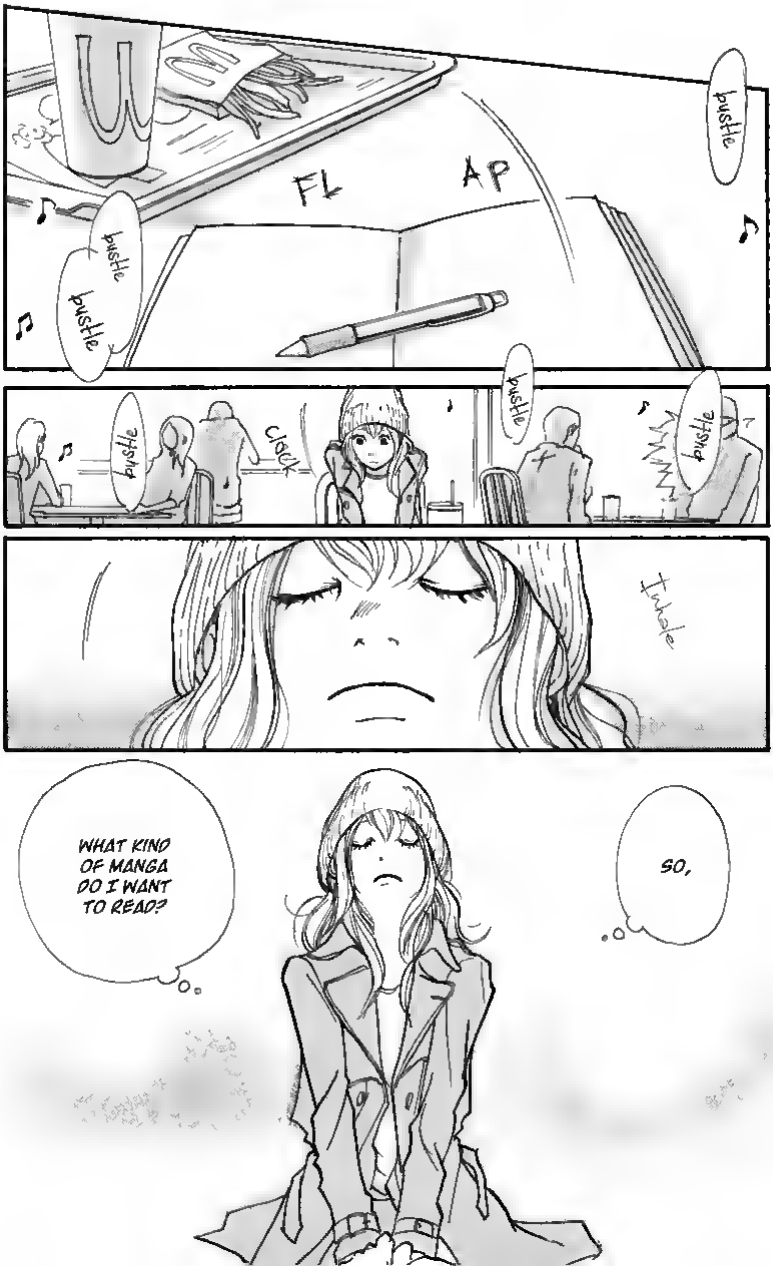
The trains will stop running
BOSS, WE NEED TO LET FUTABA GO HOME...
UM!
OH, IS IT THAT LATE ALREADY!?
pitch black
OH
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER
REALLY?
IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH...
I'M FINE
Got it!
THIS MIGHT TURN INTO AN ALL-NIGHTER. I'M COUNTING ON YOU

REDO IT!
Fwp!
UM, YOU KNOW WE'RE OUT OF TIME, RIGHT?
Ugh
I was naive
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT WASTING TIME FIXING THINGS, WOULDN'T IT JUST BE FASTER FOR YOU TO DO IT RIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE~~?
Even little kids know that
IN THAT SERIES YOU USED TO HAVE,
I COULD TELL RIGHT AWAY WHERE YOU CUT CORNERS!
Creak
HUH...
I MEAN,
Oh... she read it...


I had to do it-
AH.. I JUST DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME.. SO I NIXED THE TONE..
What were you thinking?
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN YOU CHANGED MARY'S COLORATION MIDWAY THROUGH!
Maple Ice Cream
Mary
WAIT, EVEN THAT LITTLE DETAIL...
Ugh
LOOK WHO'S TALKING
Um Um... U U
FOR AN ARTIST, YOU'RE NOT NEARLY SELF-CONSCIOUS ENOUGH!!
Pop
Makes me weep to say that
Pohah!
DON'T LICK THE ICE CREAM LID!
slurp
Maple Ice Cream
squeak
squeak
I'M OFF.
Rahh—Rahh—
Yep yep, that'll get them drawing away!
Rahh
That's got nothing to do with manga!
Rahh
But as a person and a woman!


THANKS
I'M OFF, THEN
BYE BYE
I'LL BE FINE
WILL YOU REALLY BE OK LEAVING WITHOUT A NAP?
It's so bright~
THINGS RARELY GET THAT BUSY
Slide
AND ALSO,
Japanese Dictionary
Dictionary
Dictionary
click
HONESTLY, I WISH SHE'D MOVE HER HANDS MORE THAN HER MOUTH
haa
Geez
BUT SHE ACTUALLY GOT A LOT DONE
And she didn't get sleepy

WHY WERE YOU HIDING FUTABA'S MANGA?
!
Japanese Dictionary
flip
Lightning Girl Yuna
Passion Tears
WERE YOU EMBARRASSED SHE MIGHT FIND OUT YOU LIKE HER WORK?
It
IT'S NOT THAT I LIKE IT...
SNIRK
It's for research purposes!!
Sure thing!
She's so cute
he he
Mocchi's coming!!
Just go finish the work already!
Don't be such a drag!
STOMP
STOMP
NOW
AH~~~ BUT...
I WANT TO WORK
PHEW~~~ I'M BEAT~~
totter
totter


bustle
FL
AP
bustle
bustle
bustle
bustle
bustle
clack
Tudale
SO,
WHAT KIND OF MANGA DO I WANT TO READ?

Sketching

PEN AND CHOCOLATE

NEMU YOKO

Lovely Strange Dark

PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO

CHAPTER 7

Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: Raine
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu

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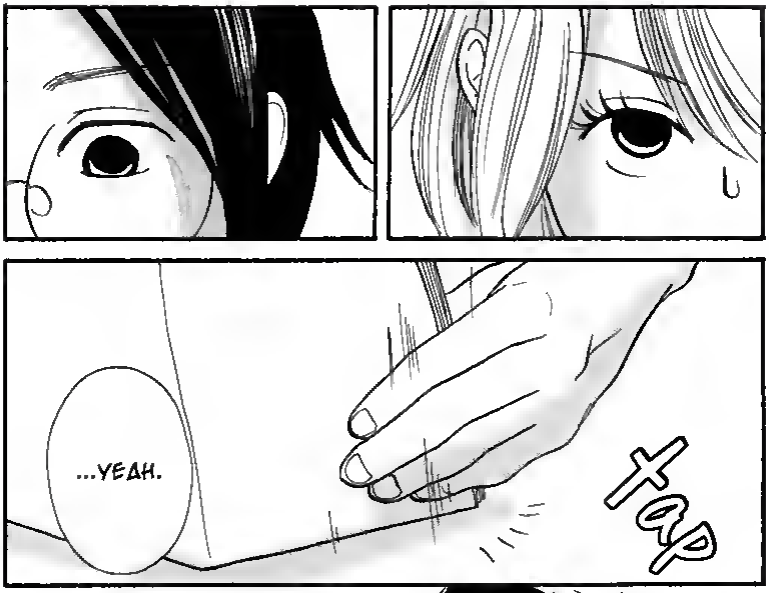
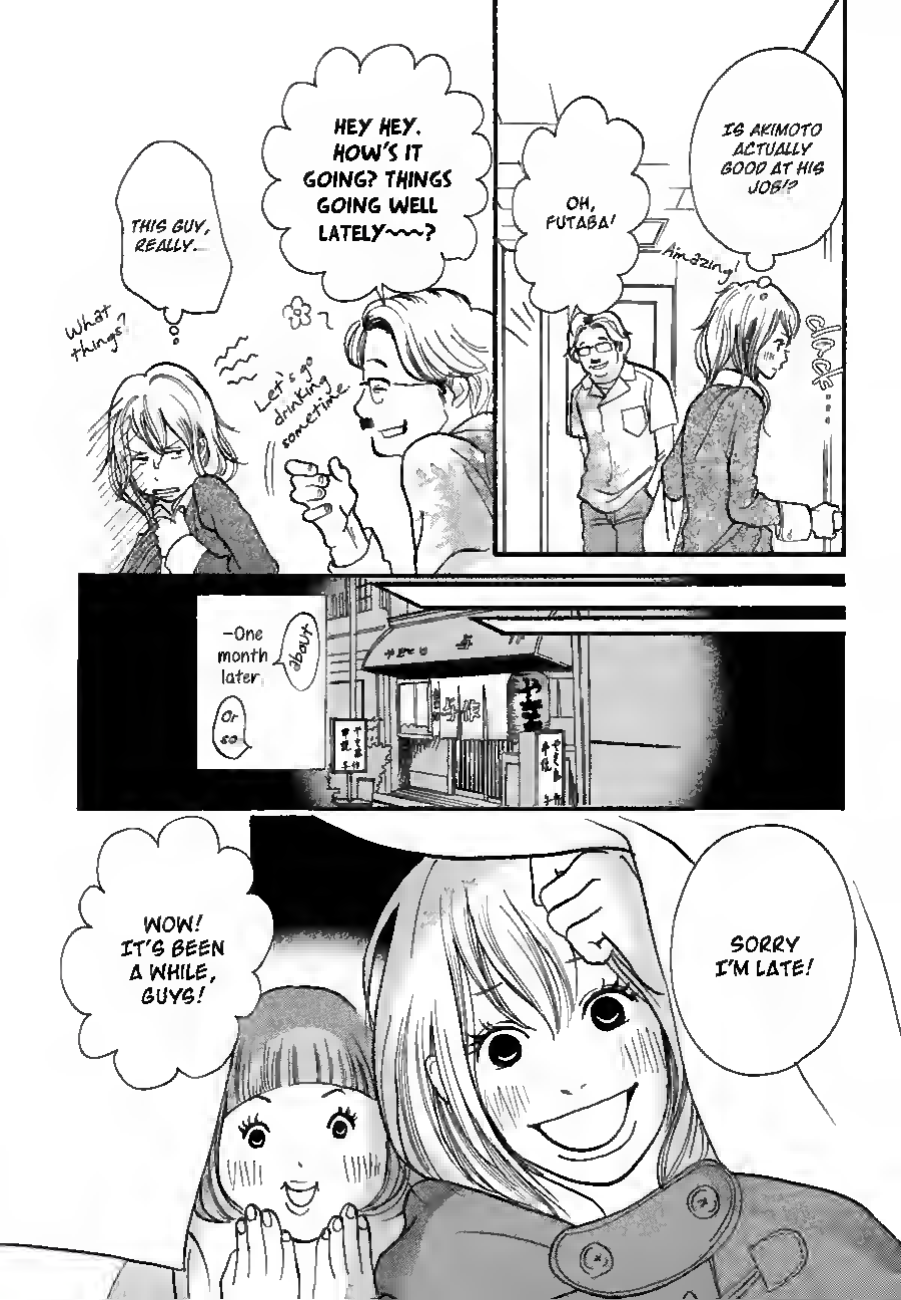


episode.07

FUTABA, YOU WERE HAVING FUN WHILE YOU DREW THIS, WEREN'T YOU?
HUH...? YOU CAN TELL?
YEAH, I CAN TELL.
I ALWAYS ENJOY READING MANGA THAT THE CREATORS THEMSELVES HAVE FUN WITH
OH!
THEN YOU MUST LIKE TOBITANI'S MANGA.
SHE REALLY LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING A BLAST DRAWING IT!
SO YOU'RE GLAD YOU WENT?
Grin
!
DID HE MAYBE ASK ME TO BE HER ASSISTANT TO TEACH ME THAT!?
So, go ahead and work on the draft.


IS AKIMOTO ACTUALLY GOOD AT HIS JOB!?
Ain-azing!
clack...
OH, FUTABA!
HEY HEY. HOW'S IT GOING? THINGS GOING WELL LATELY~~~?
THIS GUY, REALLY...
What things?
Let's go drinking sometime.
-One month later
about
Or so
WOW! IT'S BEEN A WHILE, GUYS!
SORRY I'M LATE!

Said his deadline's tomorrow!
What about Mikan?
WHA!? WHY'D YOU DO THAT? That's so embarrassing!
NAH, IT WAS GOOD.
OH, FUTABA! I READ IT.
YEAH, BEEN A WHILE.
You said... it was good...?
HUH?
Your style's changed some.
YOUR NEW ONE WAS GOOD TOO, YOSHI.
HUH?
GLOOM
WAHA!!
THAT WASN'T MY MANGA !!!
HIS EDITOR REALLY CHANGED A LOT.
WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

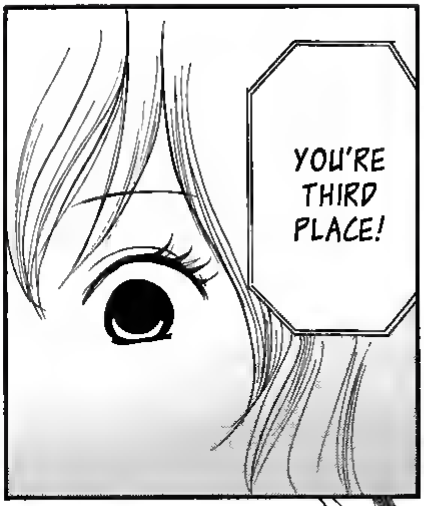
MINE'S THE SAME!
IT'S ALL JUST WHAT MY EDITOR LIKES, YOU KNOW!?
AND THE GIRL!
THE CHARACTERS, SETTING, AND LINES...
AM I JUST A MACHINE TO CREATE HIS WILD IDEAS!?
YES, EXCELLENT! TAMAKO, YOU'RE THE SEXIEST!
WE CAN SELL THIS!!
More!
MAKE IT SEXIER.
HIS FAVORITE LINE IS—
YES, THAT'S IT!!
HOT DAMN!!
I WANT TO SEE YOUR SEXY SIDE!
Sounds like he's spurring on swimsuit models
BUT THOSE EDITORS SURE KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO WIN YOU OVER
WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE,
But well, I do like sexy stuff
They said my manga is harmful to young girls...
And at some point the PTA started coming after me.
I feel like a swimsuit model who took it all off without realizing it

HUH
THEY AREN'T ALL LIKE THAT
MY EDITOR NOW IS A NICE GUY
As for her old one...
EDITORS JUST THINK OF US ARTISTS AS DISPOSABLE COMMODITIES
THAT'S RIGHT!
HEH!
AND PULLED AN ALL-NIGHTER WITH ME TO GET THE CLEAN COPY DONE...
HE GETS WHAT I WANT TO DRAW,
YEAH BUT...
AKIMOTO, RIGHT? THAT GUY SEEMS LIKE A SPACE CASE...
YEAH,
You probably saw him right when he woke up
You're so naïve!
I TRUST HIM
IS THAT HE TOOK ME IN AFTER MY SERIES WAS CANCELLED
THE BIGGEST THING

DON'T YOU GET THAT ONE DAY HE'S GOING TO DO A COMPLETE 180 ON YOU!?
You stupid!?
YEAH, THEY'RE THE ENEMY!
THEY'LL BETRAY YOU AT THE LAST SECOND!!
Um, guys...
EDITORS ARE THE ENEMY!!
Huh? No, we're not performers
Sorry!
Hush!
MORE
PAY US MORE!
Don't shortchange us on the deadlines
BEER
BUT
I REALLY DO THINK...

EDITORS AND ARTISTS ARE LIKE TWO PARTNERS IN A THREE-LEGGED RACE~~
UHH
AHA HA
You idiot! Kato doesn't wear glasses! You're No●●da!
You're right!
ISN'T TWO TIMES TWO FOUR?
Eke
Dinge ..Ling
FUTABA, YOU'RE RINGING
OH, THANKS
WHO IS IT? RIGHT WHEN I'M HAVING FUN, TOO!
Hip
OH!
AKIMOTO!

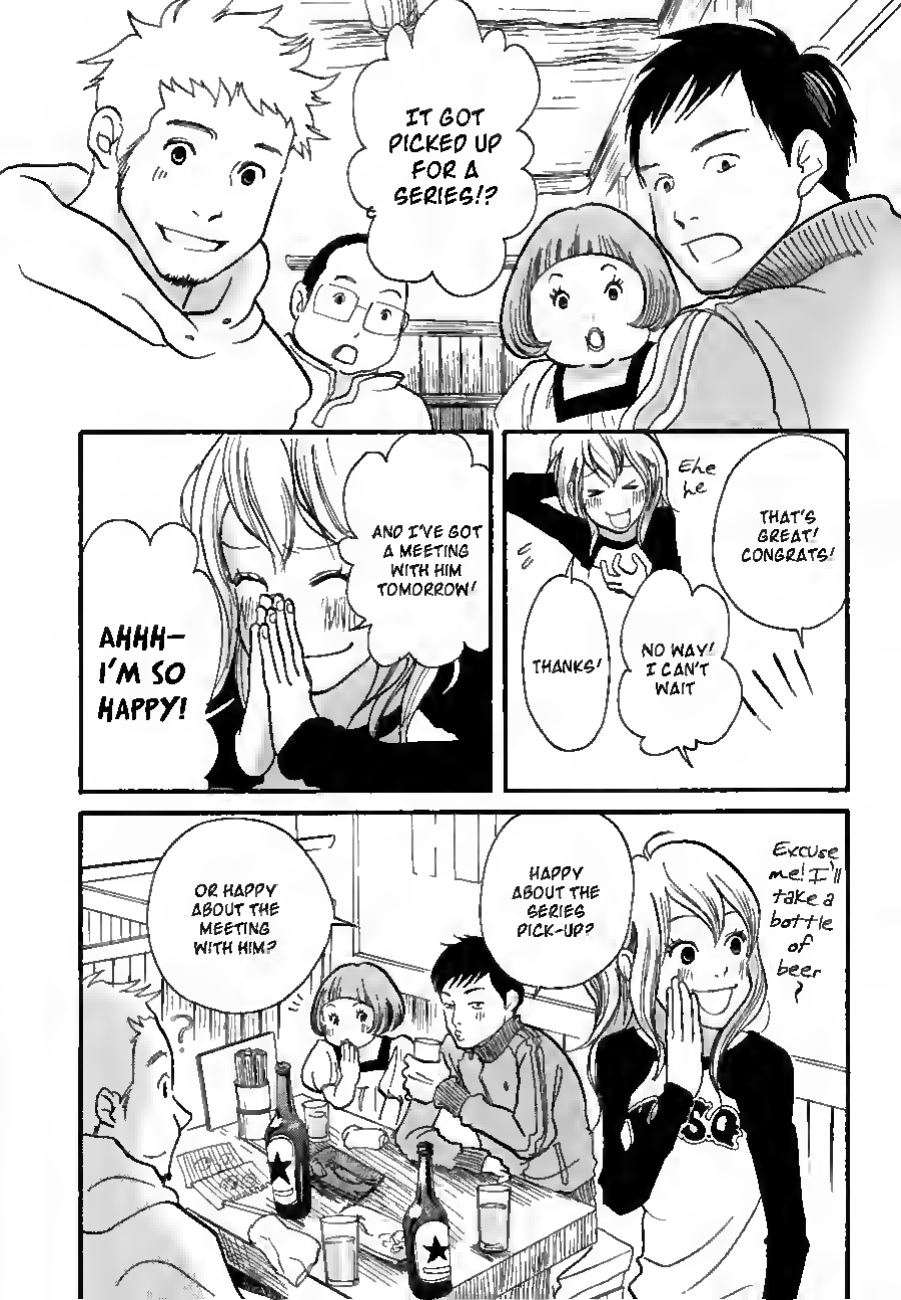
KDSG
!
HELLO!
I HAVE THE RESULTS FROM THE READER SURVEY.
!
FUTABA, THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR YOU TO BE DRINKING.
AKIMO! THANKS FOR EVERY~ THING~
ugh, it's cold~


YOU'RE THIRD PLACE!

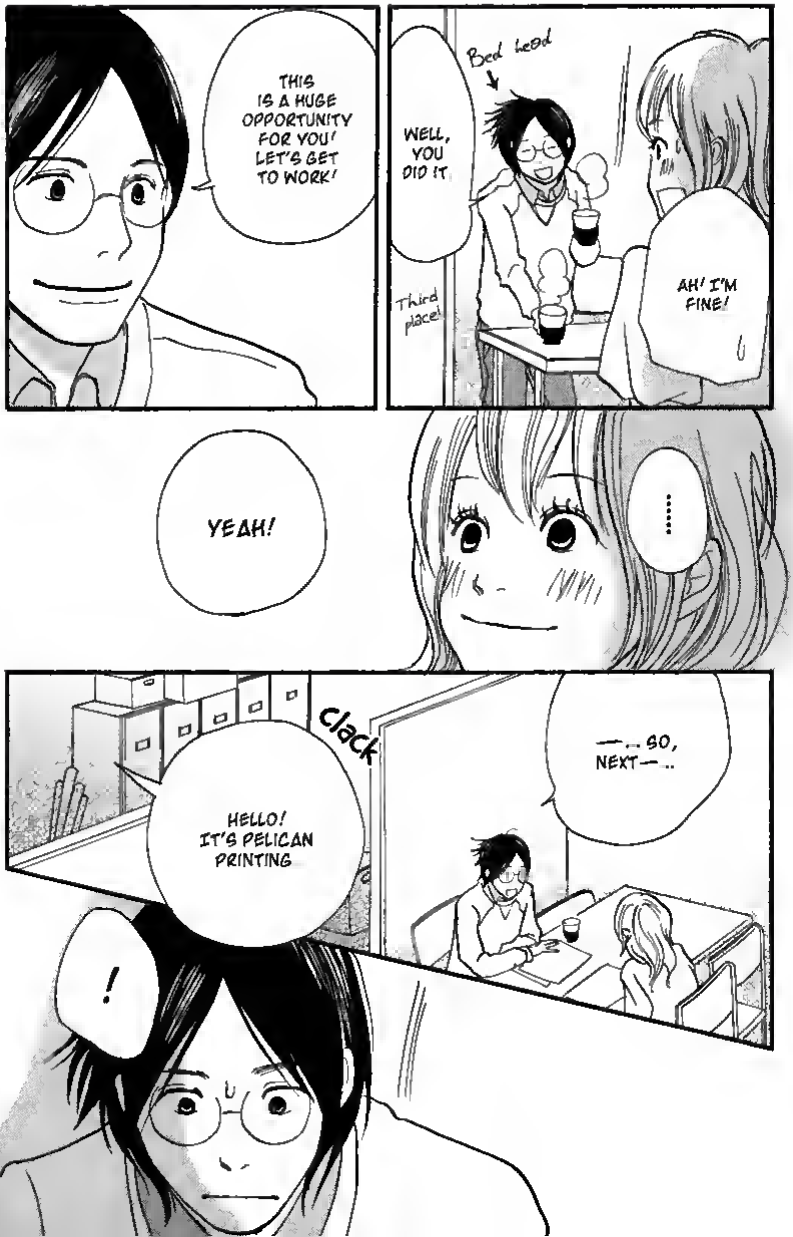
やきとり
H..
HOW...
DID IT DO..?

Woo Hoo
I DID IT!
SO AT TODAY'S MEETING.
HELLO? FUTABA, CAN YOU HEAR ME!?

R—
REALLY!?
CLATTER
REALLY! YOU DID IT!!


IT GOT PICKED UP FOR A SERIES!?
THAT'S GREAT! CONGRATS!
Eke he
NO WAY! I CAN'T WAIT
THANKS!
AND I'VE GOT A MEETING WITH HIM TOMORROW!
AHHH— I'M SO HAPPY!
Excuse me! I'll take a bottle of beer?
HAPPY ABOUT THE SERIES PICK-UP?
OR HAPPY ABOUT THE MEETING WITH HIM?

Aha ha ha ha
NOW DRINK UP, DRINK UP!
Man, this feels great!
glub
glub
AH I'VE GOTTA GO HOME AND WORK ON MY STORY-BOARD!
!!!
HUH?
NO...
OH, YOU WANT SHOTS?
DON'T BE SILLY...
DO YOUR STORY-BOARD HERE!!
Easy peasy!!
WHASSAT ~~~~!?
Ha ha
Aha ha ha
Drink
Urp...
ARE YOU OK?
I FEEL LIKE CRAP..
Drank too much


THIS IS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! LET'S GET TO WORK!
Bed head
WELL, YOU DID IT
Third place!
AH! I'M FINE!
YEAH!
.....
Clack
HELLO! IT'S PELICAN PRINTING
—... SO, NEXT—...
!

OH
FUTABA, HOW ABOUT WE HAVE OUR MEETING OUTSIDE TODAY?
clack
HUH?
THERE'S A... A TRENDY CAFÉ NEARBY
LET'S GO THERE
pattle pattle
HURRY!
HURRY!
WH...?
C'MON!
Take your coat!
HUH?
...jiggle
clack
A café? Trendy?
EXCUSE ME, I NEED TO STOP IN THE BATHROOM QUICK...

NOGUCHI!
HEY HEY, YOU HERE ALONE, FUTABA?
HUH?
Akiko!
JINGLE
HE'S ACTING KINDA STRANGE
HA HA
OH!
HUH, PRETTY UNUSUAL FOR HIM TO HAVE A MEETING OUT OF THE OFFICE...
He went to the bathroom...
NO, I'M HAVING A MEETING WITH AKIMOTO
RAN AWAY?
HE RAN AWAY.

WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW?
LOOK, SHE JUST SHOWED UP, RIGHT? THE GIRL FROM PELICAN PRINTING...
?
SHE'S AKIMOTO'S GIRLFRIEND.

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 8
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: ayase
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QC: Ianu
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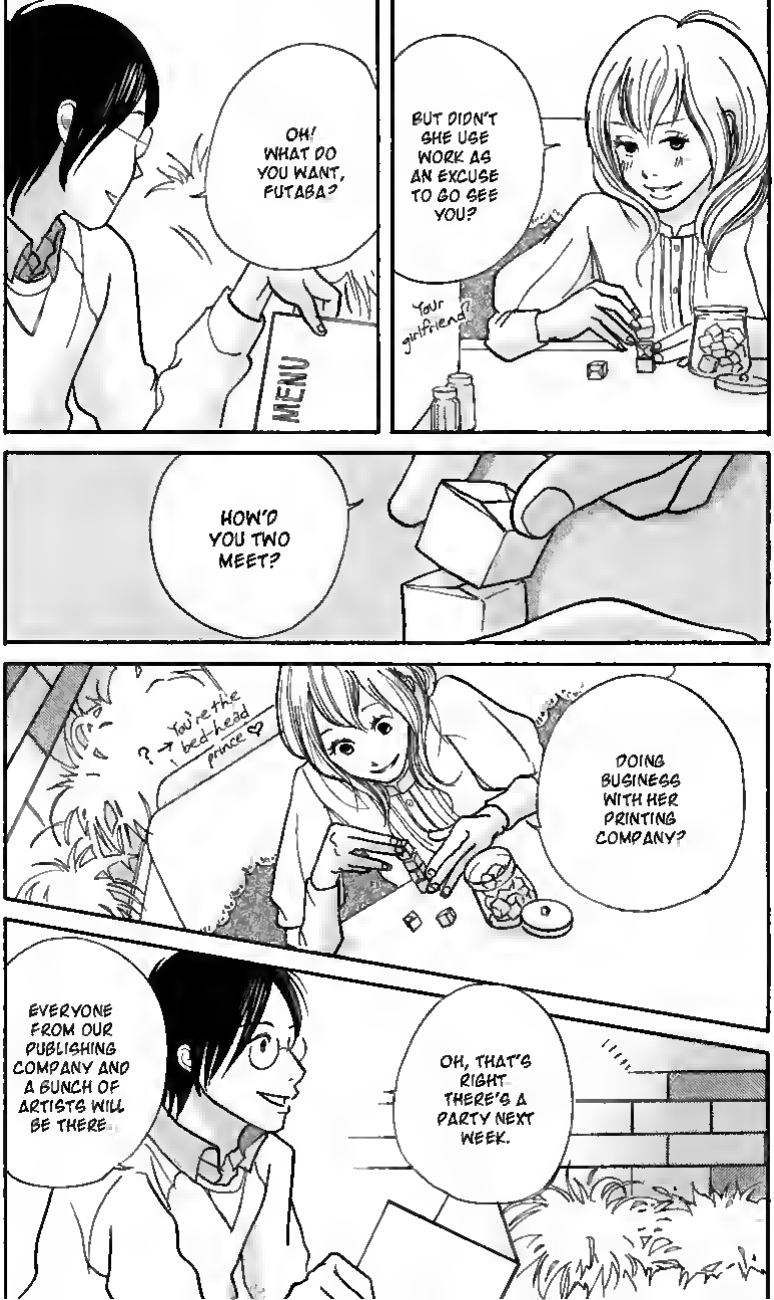
SHE'S AKIMOTO'S GIRLFRIEND.
AH... SURE, LATER...
WELL, SEEYA LATER
N-Noguchi-
OH.

click
puff
.....
OK, LET'S GET STRAIGHT TO THE MEETING...
AKIMOTO
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT
COUGH
DID YOU COME HERE TO RUN AWAY FROM YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

HUH...
WH...
OH!
wave
wave
~~~THAT GUY IS SERIOUSLY...
AKIMOTO,
DON'T YOU FEEL BAD, RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT~~?
MENU
NO... I WASN'T RUNNING AWAY.
I WAS THINKING IT'D FRESHEN THINGS UP TO HAVE OUR MEETINGS ELSEWHERE SOMETIMES...
MENU
~~~

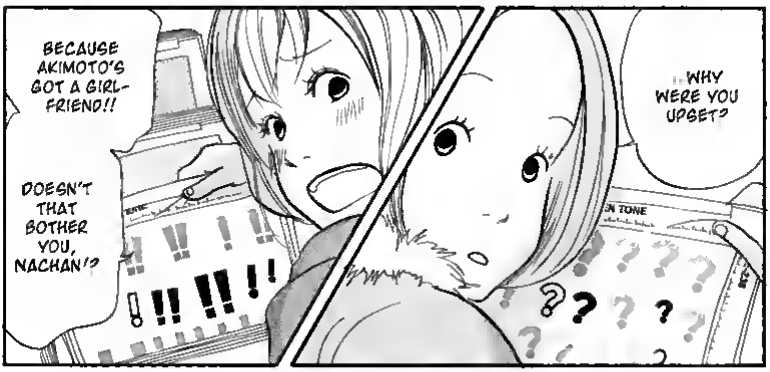

OH! WHAT DO YOU WANT, FUTABA?
MENU
BUT DIDN'T SHE USE WORK AS AN EXCUSE TO GO SEE YOU?
Your girlfriend?
HOW'D YOU TWO MEET?
? → You're the bed-head prince ♡
DOING BUSINESS WITH HER PRINTING COMPANY?
EVERYONE FROM OUR PUBLISHING COMPANY AND A BUNCH OF ARTISTS WILL BE THERE.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S A PARTY NEXT WEEK.

GEEZ, DON'T DODGE MY QUESTIONS~~
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO EMBARRASSED...
WIBBLE
WOBBLE
HEY!
Scat
for
AH!
DON'T PLAY WITH THE SUGAR CUBES
Hurry up
and order
Sorry
SCREEN TONE
THIS SUCKS...
24

Comic
Light Box A3 20%OFF
Screen
20% off
WHY WAS I PESTERING HIM LIKE THAT...
IT DOES SOUND LIKE YOU WERE BUGGING HIM...
* out to my screentone.

I wonder if I could use this pattern somewhere...
I FELT LIKE IF I HADN'T, HE'D HAVE NOTICED I WAS UPSET

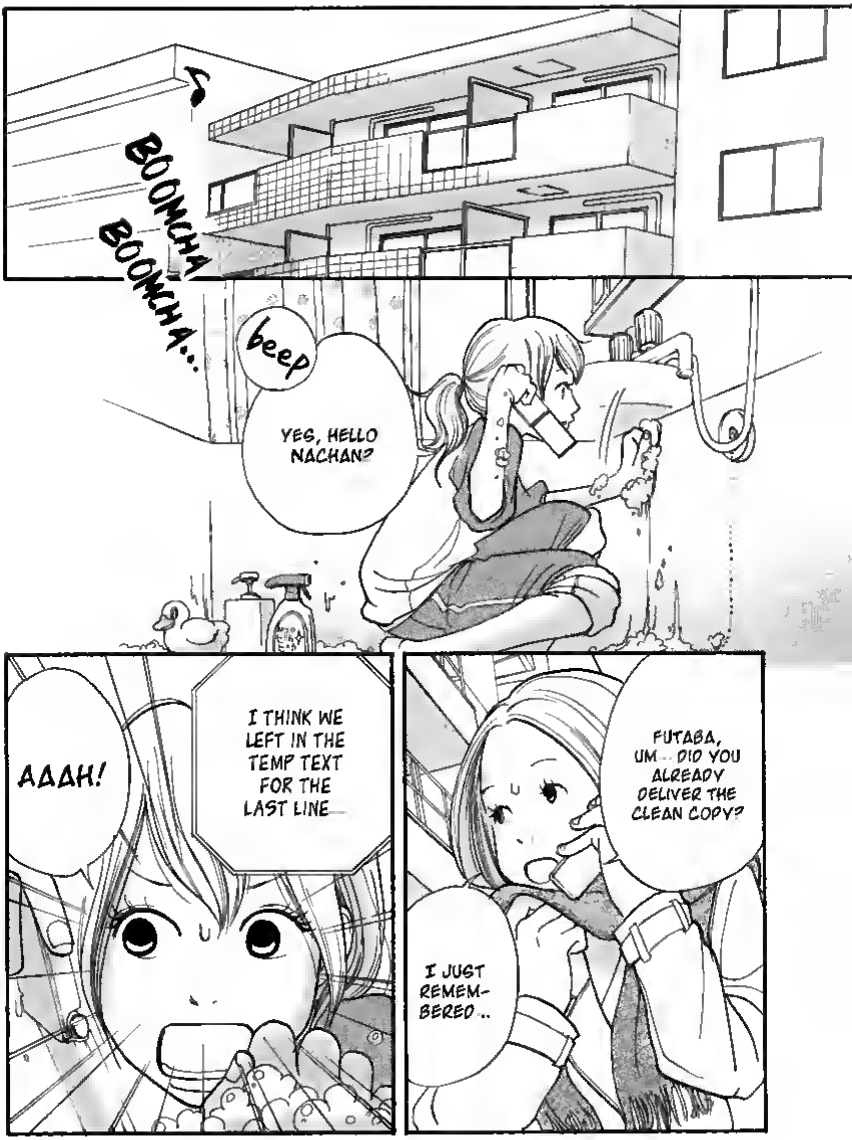
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE MENTIONED IT.
.....

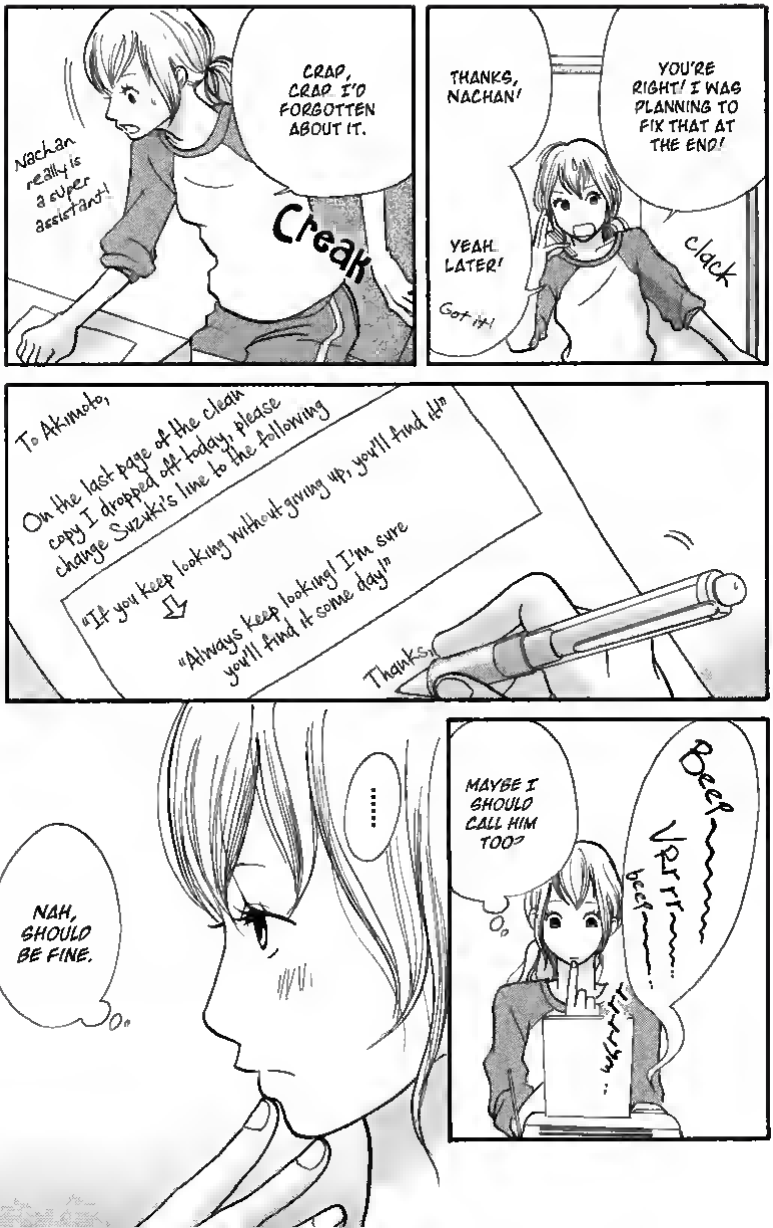

BECAUSE AKIMOTO'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND!!
DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU, NACHAN!?
...WHY WERE YOU UPSET?
SCREEN TONE

.....
I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I WANT TO MEET HER~~
HUH—!? BUT I MIGHT'VE SEEN HER AROUND, YOU KNOW?
NOT AT ALL?
flip
flip
FUTABA, MAYBE...
M.T.L SCREEN TONE
SP-426
YOU LIKE AKIMOTO?

Digital Tone
HUH?
I SAID NO!
HUH... BUT...
NO WAY!
NO NO NO! DON'T BE SILLY, NACHAN!
.....
The deadline won't wait!
C'MON, LET'S BUY THESE QUICK AND GET BACK TO WORK!

HELLO!
*Houbun Publishing
EXCUSE ME, WHERE'S AKIMOTO?
OH... HE LEFT FOR A MEETING...
Phew!
HE'S NOT HERE...
WHAT'M I RELIEVED FOR!?
HEY, ABOUT WHEN'S AKIMOTO SUPPOSED TO BE BACK?
OH!
I JUST CAME TO GIVE HIM THE CLEAN COPY...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I'll leave it with you
GEEZ! IT'S BECAUSE NACHAN SAID WHAT SHE DID ——..
clack clack


BOOMCHA
BOOMCHA...
beep
YES, HELLO NACHAN?
AAAH!
I THINK WE LEFT IN THE TEMP TEXT FOR THE LAST LINE...
FUTABA, UM... DID YOU ALREADY DELIVER THE CLEAN COPY?
I JUST REMEMBERED..


Nachan really is a super assistant!
CRAP, CRAP I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.
Creak
YOU'RE RIGHT! I WAS PLANNING TO FIX THAT AT THE END!
THANKS, NACHAN!
clack
YEAH. LATER!
Got it!
To Akimoto,
On the last page of the clean copy I dropped off today, please change Suzuki's line to the following
"If you keep looking without giving up, you'll find it"
"Always keep looking! I'm sure you'll find it some day!"
Thanks.
Beep
Vrrr
beep
Vrrr
MAYBE I SHOULD CALL HIM TOO?
.....
NAH, SHOULD BE FINE.

GAH... DON'T GET SO NERVOUS EVERY TIME...
rustle
"Meteor" release day.
OH! IT'S HERE, IT'S HERE!
503
403
GAH!
...THIS IS KINDA ABRUPT...
flip
METEOR
Good!
AH... THIS PART CAME OUT BEAUTIFULLY.
flip
METEOR
HM... I SHOULD'VE DRAWN IT OUT MORE HERE...
flip
METEOR
flip...
IF YOU KEEP LOOKING WITHOUT GIVING UP, YOU'LL FIND IT!
HUH?

I'M SO SORRY!
I REMEMBER THE INTERN WHO GAVE ME THE FAX, BUT I THINK I LOST IT!
I REALLY AM SORRY!
AH...
IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR NOT CALLING TO CHECK...
AND WE CAN FIX IT FOR THE VOLUME RELEASE!
SO LET'S PLEASE PUT OUT A VOLUME, KAY!
AHA HA HA
Of course!
THAT'S OUR GOAL!
WELL... BUT,
THANKFULLY IT WAS ONLY A MINOR LINE.

Now, if it had been like the signature phrase for the main character
WELL, I GUESS WE CAN HAVE A QUICK CHAT ABOUT THE NEXT CHAPTER
NO, THAT'S NOT ANY BETTER
HUH ...?
N... NO WAY... EVEN IF IT IS A MINOR LINE,
I AGONIZE OVER EACH AND EVERY ONE, YOU KNOW?
RRRR
RRRR

RRR
RRR
ANSWER IT. YOU'RE RINGING.
FUTABA...
RRR
RRR
RRR
RRR
beep
EXCUSE ME
YES, THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
OH... I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO ALL THE WAY TO GINZA TO BUY THAT TODAY...
YES... I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEETING NOW...
beep
YES... I'LL GO LATER...
YOU CAN GO.
KOGOROU IS WAITING FOR HER SWEETS

My editor before was like that.
"LET'S DO IT WITH A BANG~~~"
WE'LL HAVE OUR MEETING NEXT TIME
I STILL HAVE TO PLAN THINGS OUT, TOO
...THEN I'LL BE GOING
OH, PLEASE COME TO THE PARTY NEXT WEEK
But I thought he was different.
I thought Akimoto was different...
COULD YOU TURN FUTABA OVER TO ME?
MAYBE...
YOU REALLY CAN'T COUNT ON EDITORS

Tone

PEN AND CHOCOLATE

NEMU YOKO

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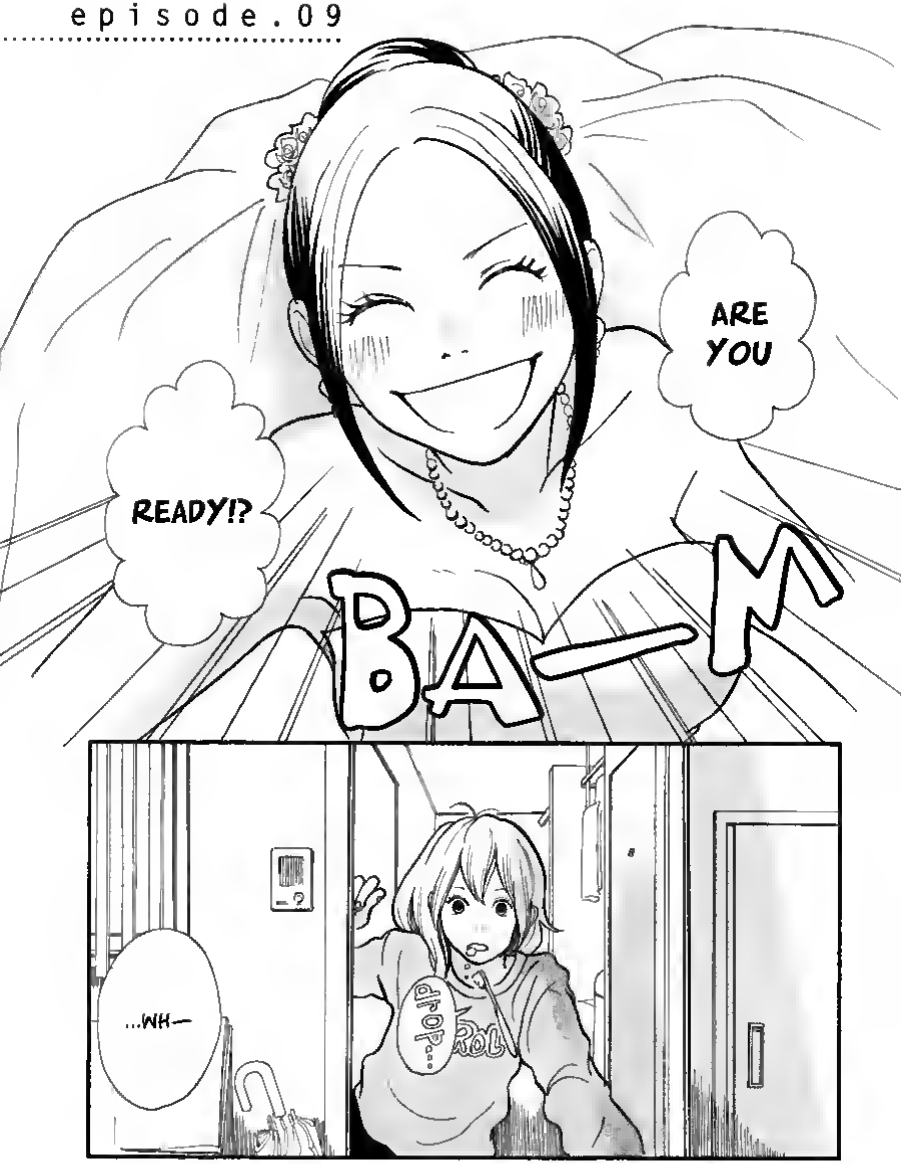
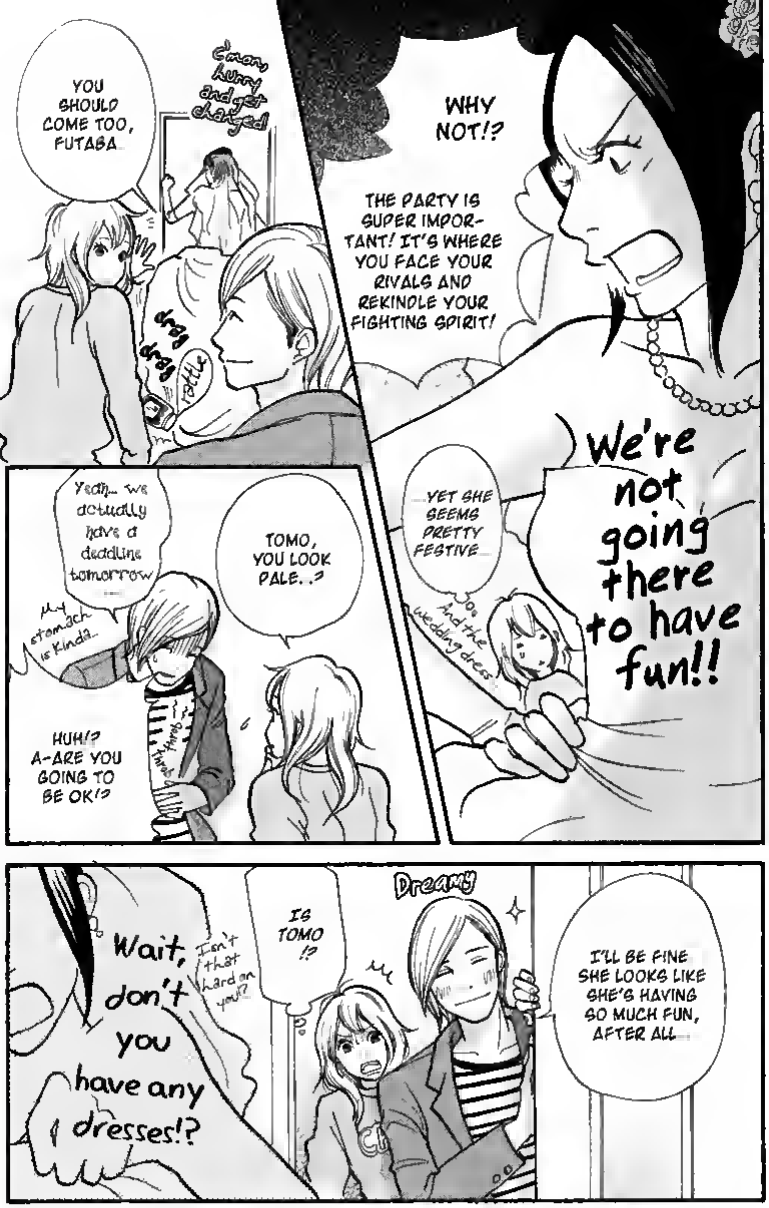
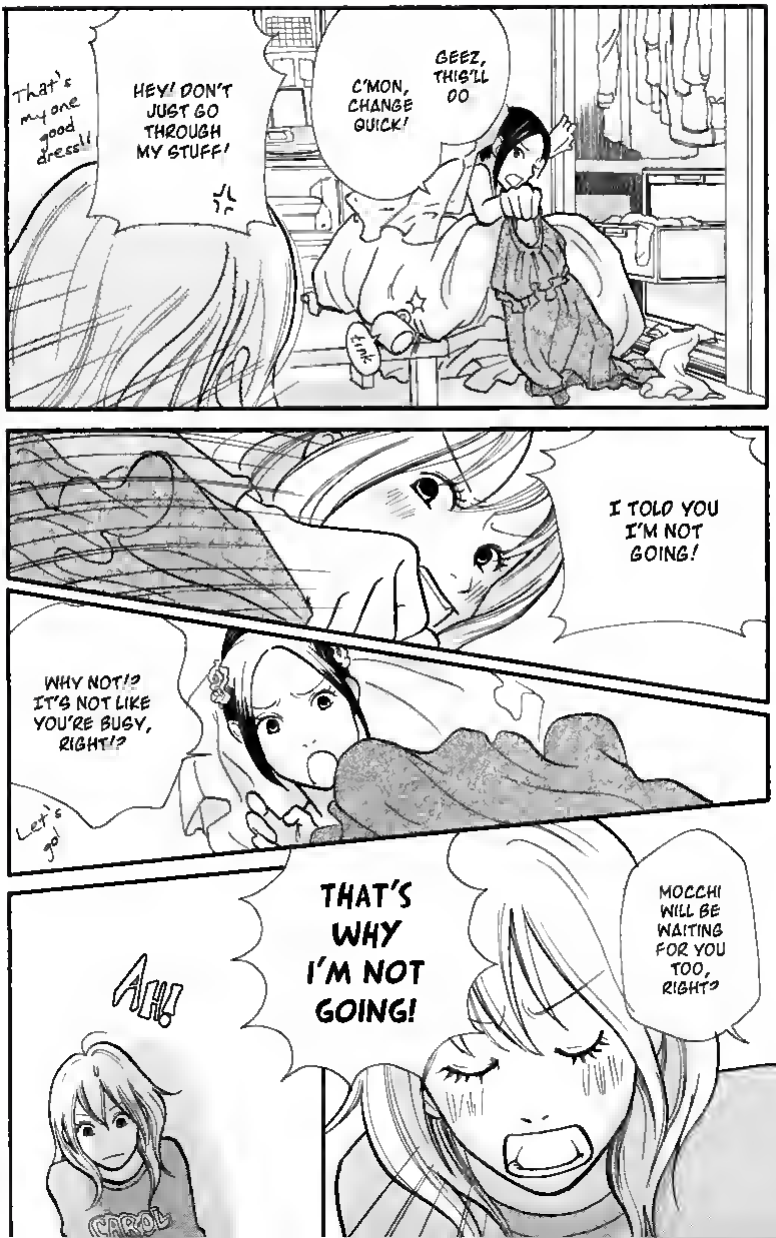
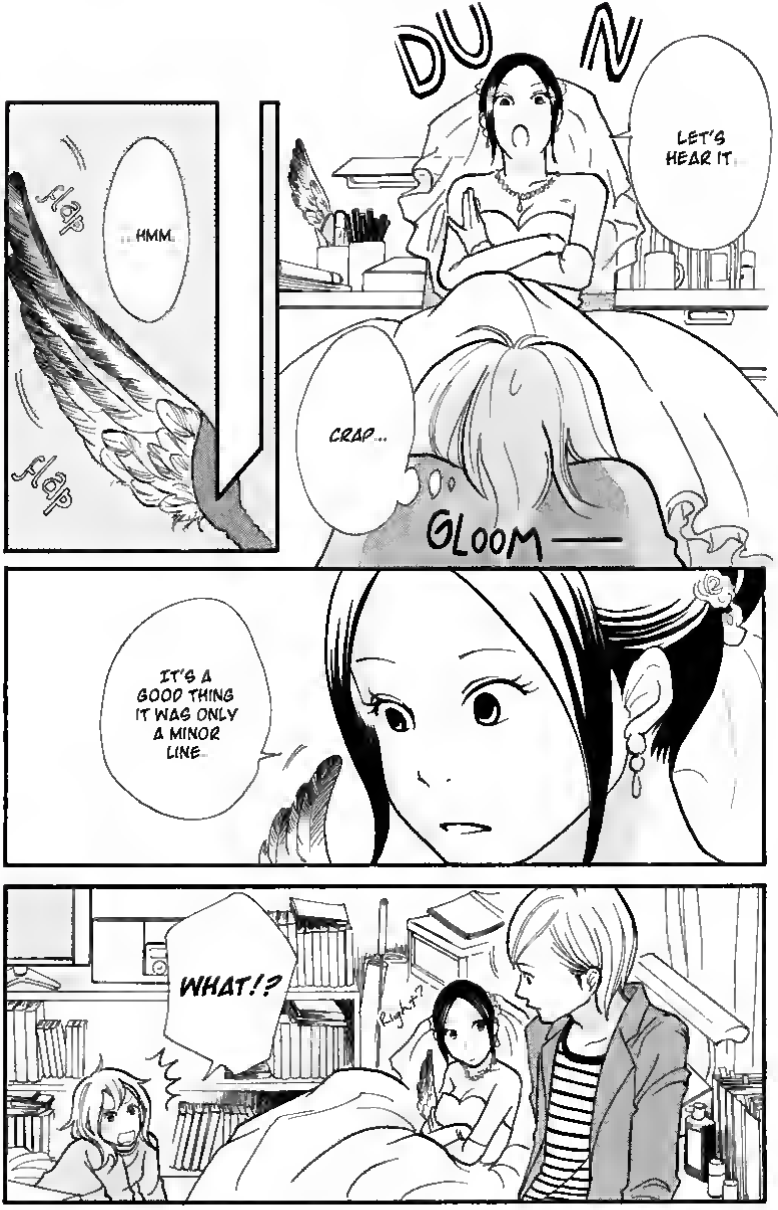

ARE YOU
READY!?
BA—M
...WH—

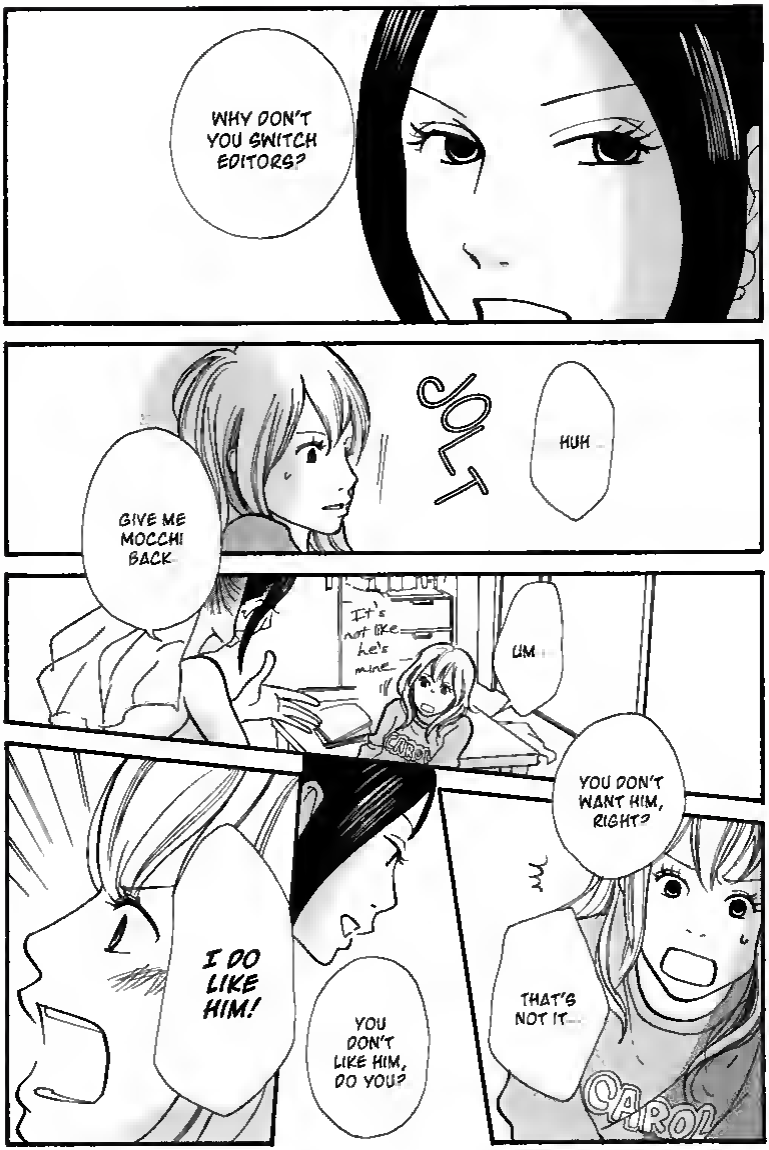
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT!?
IT'S A WEDDING DRESS
THIS?
We're coming in
UH UH UH UH
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING!?
WHY ARE YOU HERE... WAIT...
The theme is "Girls Married to Manga"
I'M NOT GOING
NO WAY!
What're you talking about?
YEAH...
TODAY'S THE KOUBUN PUBLISHING PARTY. YOU'RE NOT READY YET?
I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU WHAT YOU'RE WEARING!

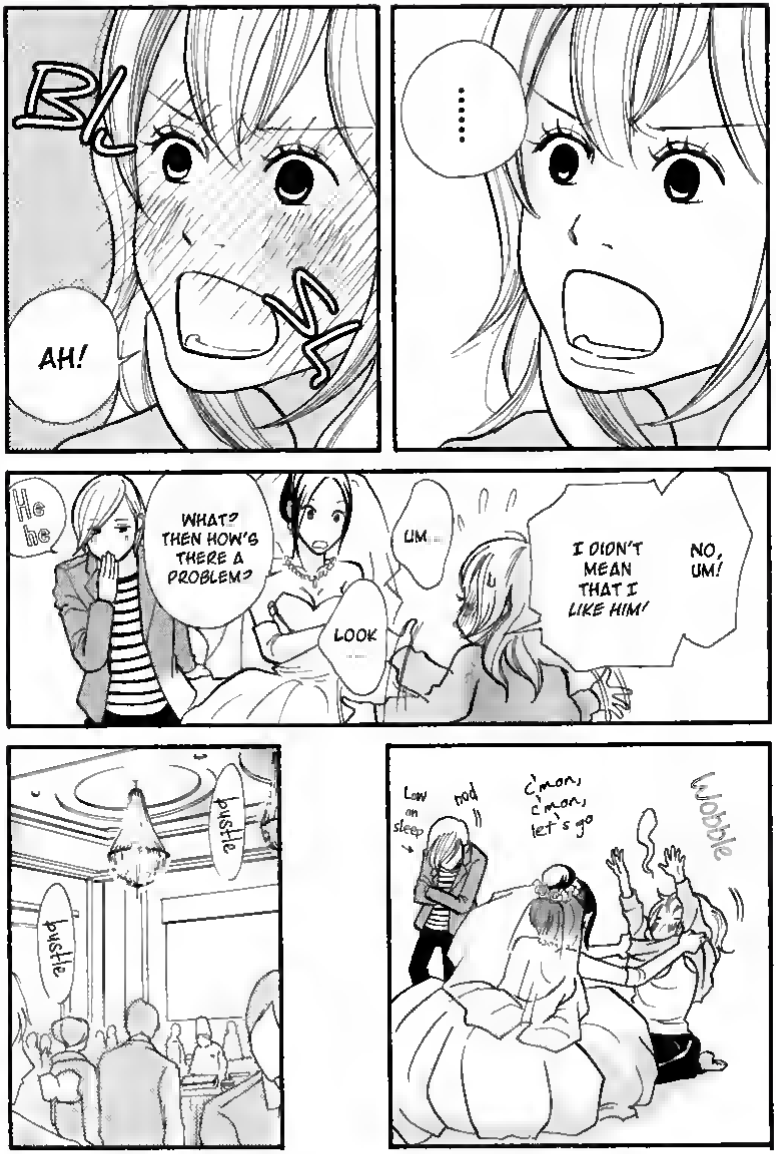

YOU SHOULD COME TOO, FUTABA
C'mon, hurry and get changed
drag drag
rattle
WHY NOT!?
THE PARTY IS SUPER IMPORTANT! IT'S WHERE YOU FACE YOUR RIVALS AND REKINDLE YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT!
We're not going there to have fun!!
YET SHE SEEMS PRETTY FESTIVE
Yo, And the wedding dress
Yeah... we actually have a deadline tomorrow
My stomach is kinda...
TOMO, YOU LOOK PALE..?
HUH!? A-ARE YOU GOING TO BE OK!?
Dreamy
IS TOMO !?
Isn't that hard on you!?
Wait, don't you have any dresses!?
I'LL BE FINE SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING SO MUCH FUN, AFTER ALL


That's my one good dress!!
HEY! DON'T JUST GO THROUGH MY STUFF!
C'MON, CHANGE QUICK!
GEEZ, THIS'LL DO
tink
I TOLD YOU I'M NOT GOING!
WHY NOT!? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BUSY, RIGHT!?
Let's go!
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING!
MOCCHI WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU TOO, RIGHT?
AH!

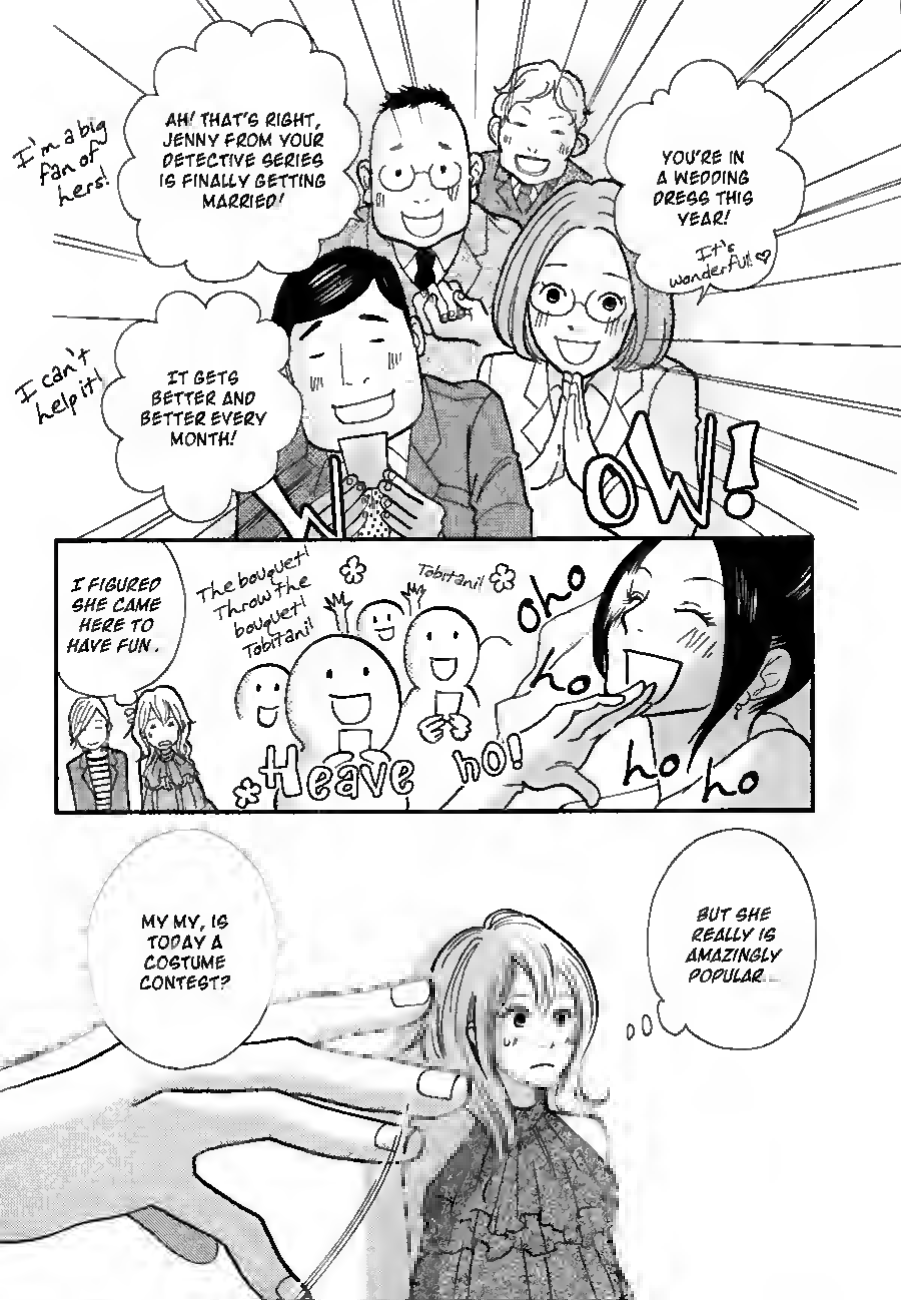

DU
N
LET'S HEAR IT...
HMM...
FLAP
FLAP
CRAP...
GLOOM——
IT'S A GOOD THING IT WAS ONLY A MINOR LINE...
WHAT!?
Right?

SHOCK
...HUH!?
IT ALMOST FEELS... LIKE YOU'RE BETRAYING ME TOO...
I THOUGHT YOU'D UNDERSTAND ME FOR SURE...
CAROL
WHAT AN EGO!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
SO TELL ME, FUTABACCHI, DO YOU ALWAYS DO PERFECT WORK THAT LIVES UP TO MOCCHI'S EXPECTATIONS!?
Futabacchi!?
DUN
IF YOU HAVE SO LITTLE FAITH IN MOCCHI...
CAROL


WHY DON'T YOU SWITCH EDITORS?
COLT
HUH...
GIVE ME MOCCHI BACK...
It's not like he's mine...
CAROL
UM...
YOU DON'T WANT HIM, RIGHT?
THAT'S NOT IT...
CAROL
I DO LIKE HIM!
YOU DON'T LIKE HIM, DO YOU?

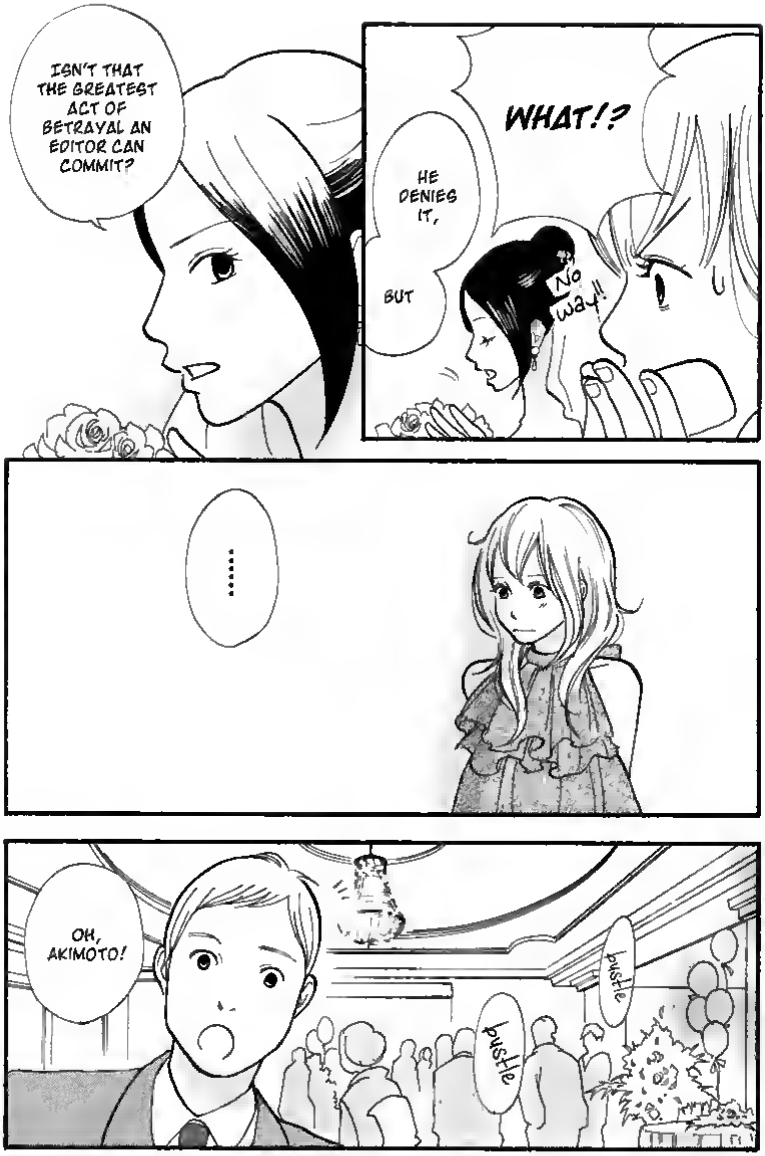

Bl
AH!
.....
He he
WHAT? THEN HOW'S THERE A PROBLEM?
UM...
LOOK
I DIDN'T MEAN THAT I LIKE HIM!
NO, UM!
bustle
bustle
Low on sleep
nod
C'mon, c'mon, let's go
wobble

NOW THEN,
LET'S DO THIS.
WELL, WITH SO MANY PEOPLE HERE, I MIGHT NOT RUN INTO HIM...
Whoa, a bride!
AH! TOBITAN!!
Gyah
OH, IS THIS YOUR ASSIS-TANT?
AH, HE STARTLED ME...
Nguch...
YOU LOOK AS BRILLIANT AS EVER THIS YEAR~~
RUB
RUB
RUB
OHH! FUTABA!
I thought you were from the wedding reception
TOBITAN!!
Shock!


I'm a big fan of hers!
AH! THAT'S RIGHT, JENNY FROM YOUR DETECTIVE SERIES IS FINALLY GETTING MARRIED!
YOU'RE IN A WEDDING DRESS THIS YEAR!
It's wonderful!
I can't help it!
IT GETS BETTER AND BETTER EVERY MONTH!
OW!
I FIGURED SHE CAME HERE TO HAVE FUN.
The bouquet! Throw the bouquet! Tabitani!
Tabitani!
Heave ho!
oho
ho
ho
ho
MY MY, IS TODAY A COSTUME CONTEST?
BUT SHE REALLY IS AMAZINGLY POPULAR...

HEY THERE~
TOBITANI~
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN YOUR USUAL GOOD FORM~~~
THANKS
WHEN YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME, COME DRAW FOR ME~~

Ah, so much for the good mood...
HE DIDN'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY, SO I SWITCHED EDITORS.
THEN HE WOUND UP BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER PUBLISHER, AND NOW HE RESENTS ME.
MY OLD EDITOR.
WHO WAS THAT?
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE DIDN'T TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY?
HE RESENTS YOU!?
HE SOLD OFF MY MATERIAL TO OTHER ARTISTS


ISN'T THAT THE GREATEST ACT OF BETRAYAL AN EDITOR CAN COMMIT?
WHAT!?
HE DENIES IT,
BUT
No way!!
.....
OH, AKIMOTO!
bustle
bustle

HUH?
BOTH OKADA AND TOBITA!! AREN'T COMING THIS YEAR...
It's too bad, I was looking forward to seeing Tobita!!-
IS OKADA COMING?
NO, IT'S HOPELESS!
He's finally finishing off his designs-
SHE CAME.
Aha ha ha
Aha ♡!
TO
TO
TO
Honestly, Onigawara-
Hey, Kogarou-

Tobitani !!
Huff Huff
MOCCHI !!
I failed!!
WH-WH-WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME!!
Huffo pant!
BUT~~
NO BUTS!
Mocchi, you're all grass~
C'MON, WE'RE GOING! I'LL TAKE YOU HOME!
AH..

GOOD, FUTABA! SO YOU CAME
AH... YEAH.
PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELF.
GRR...
.....
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT, FUTABACCHI! THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY SHOULDN'T YOU TELL HIM?
HEY, MOCCHI.
FUTABACCHI HERE SAID SHE WANTS TO SWITCH EDITORS!

Lovely Strange Dark
PEN TO CHOCOLATE
"PEN AND CHOCOLATE"
BY NEMU YOUKO
CHAPTER 10
Scans & translations
Kalendel
Raw preps: ayase
Editing: Ximena
QC: Ianu
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

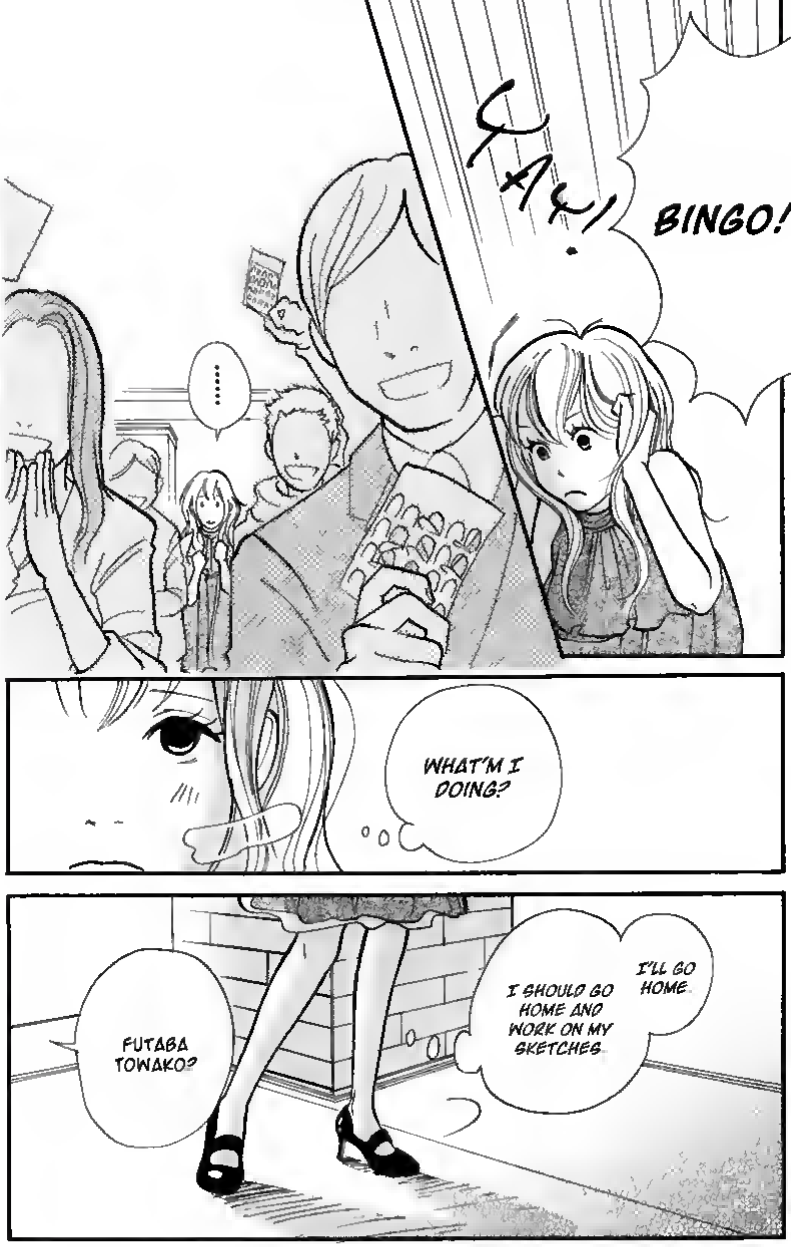
YOU HAVE TO TELL PEOPLE WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND,
RIGHT?
NO...
U

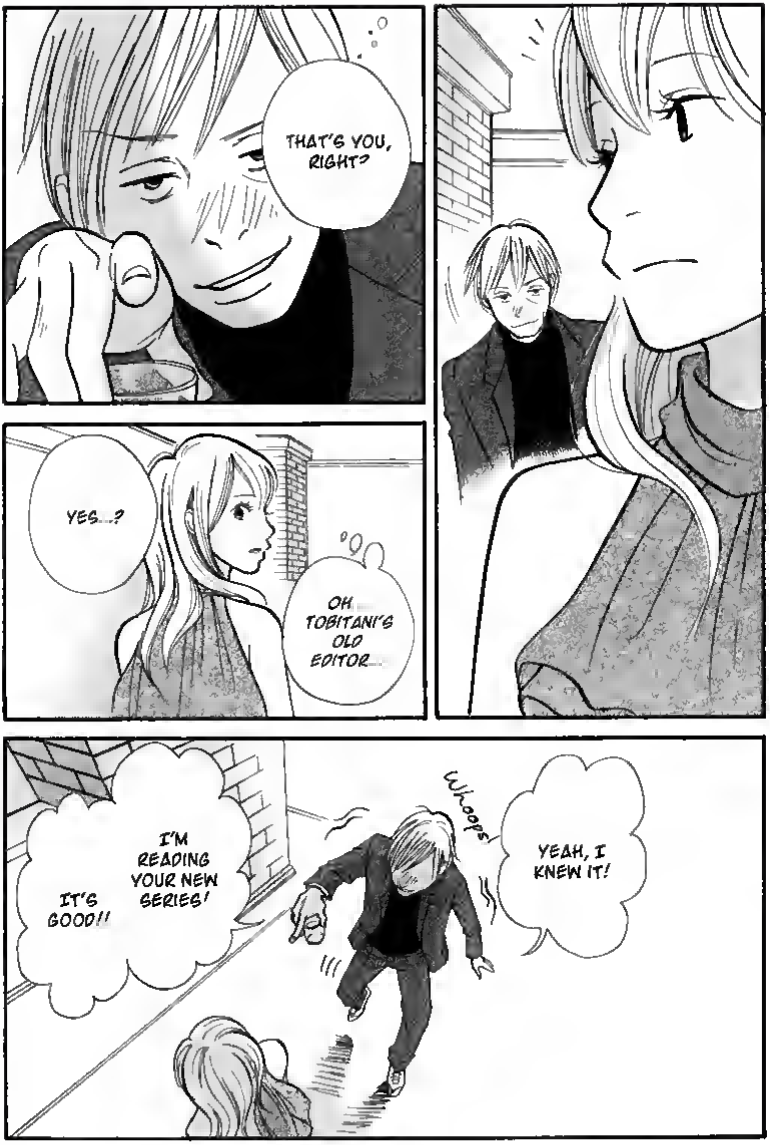
KE..
IT WAS A JOKE, AKIMOTO! A JO..
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BOSS!?
HEY, WAIT!!
But you said so, didn't you?
whom
whom
FUTABA, IS THIS ABOUT..

I'LL PLAY!! I'LL PLAY TOO!!
BINGO!!
WHAT HAPPENED?
GIVE ME A CARD!
Fwoop—
No more drinking!
WAIT, TOBITA!!
GAH... IT'S NO USE...

TAXI
LOOK, I'LL WRAP UP SOME CAKE AND TAKE IT WITH!
PUSH
No!
AH! FUTABA, HAVE FUN!
BYE!
Tomozaki, why aren't you watching her?
Ah, sorry I fell asleep
YES WAY!
NO WAY!
TOBITAN! HERE, LET'S GET YOU HOME!
I'll take you!
HE LEFT...
CLACK
VRRRRM
"I WANT TO SWITCH EDITORS—"
.....
HE'S SO IRRESPONSIBLE

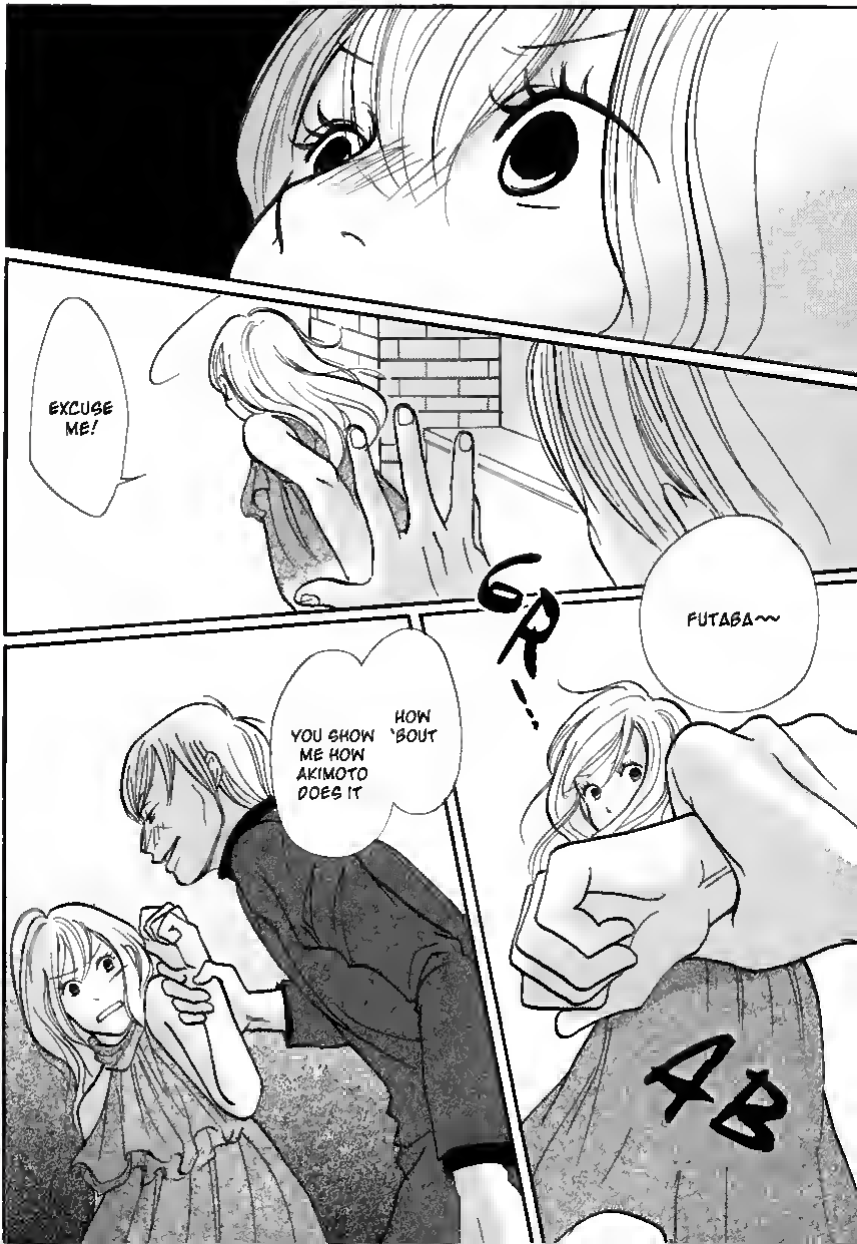
IF I WERE TO SAY THAT...
WHAT A THING TO SAY!!
FUTABA, IF YOU DON'T ENJOY DRAWING WITH ME, THEN...
Wait
AND I... AND I...
—HE'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, I BET!
Because it's Akimoto!
DON'T WANT THAT...!


BINGO!
.....
WHAT'M I DOING?
I'LL GO HOME
I SHOULD GO HOME AND WORK ON MY SKETCHES
FUTABA TOWAKO?


THAT'S YOU, RIGHT?
YES...?
OH... TOBITANI'S OLD EDITOR...
I'M READING YOUR NEW SERIES!
IT'S GOOD!!
Whoops
YEAH, I KNEW IT!

I GET WHY AKIMOTO WANTED TO TAKE YOU FROM NOGUCHI~~
HAHA... THANKS
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW A CUTIE LIKE YOU DREW IT~
HAA~~
HUH?
USUALLY ROLLS
THAT'S HOW AKIMOTO
BUT ONLY GIRLS
!
SWISH
AND WHEN THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET POPULAR...
HE SNATCHES 'EM UP!
HE'S ALWAYS LURKIN' ABOUT AND WATCHING OTHER ARTISTS

TOBITANI MUST'VE PICKED AKIMOTO TOO, RIGHT?
.....
AHA HA HA
No no
BUT ONCE HE'S YOUR EDITOR, YOU START GETTING GOOD. IT'S LIKE A BIG DEAL
THAT'S NOT HOW HE BECAME MY EDITOR...
YOU TWO ARE A THING, AREN'T YOU?
YOU MUST COME UP WITH SOME GOOD MATERIAL AFTER YOUR BUSINESS MEETINGS IN BED

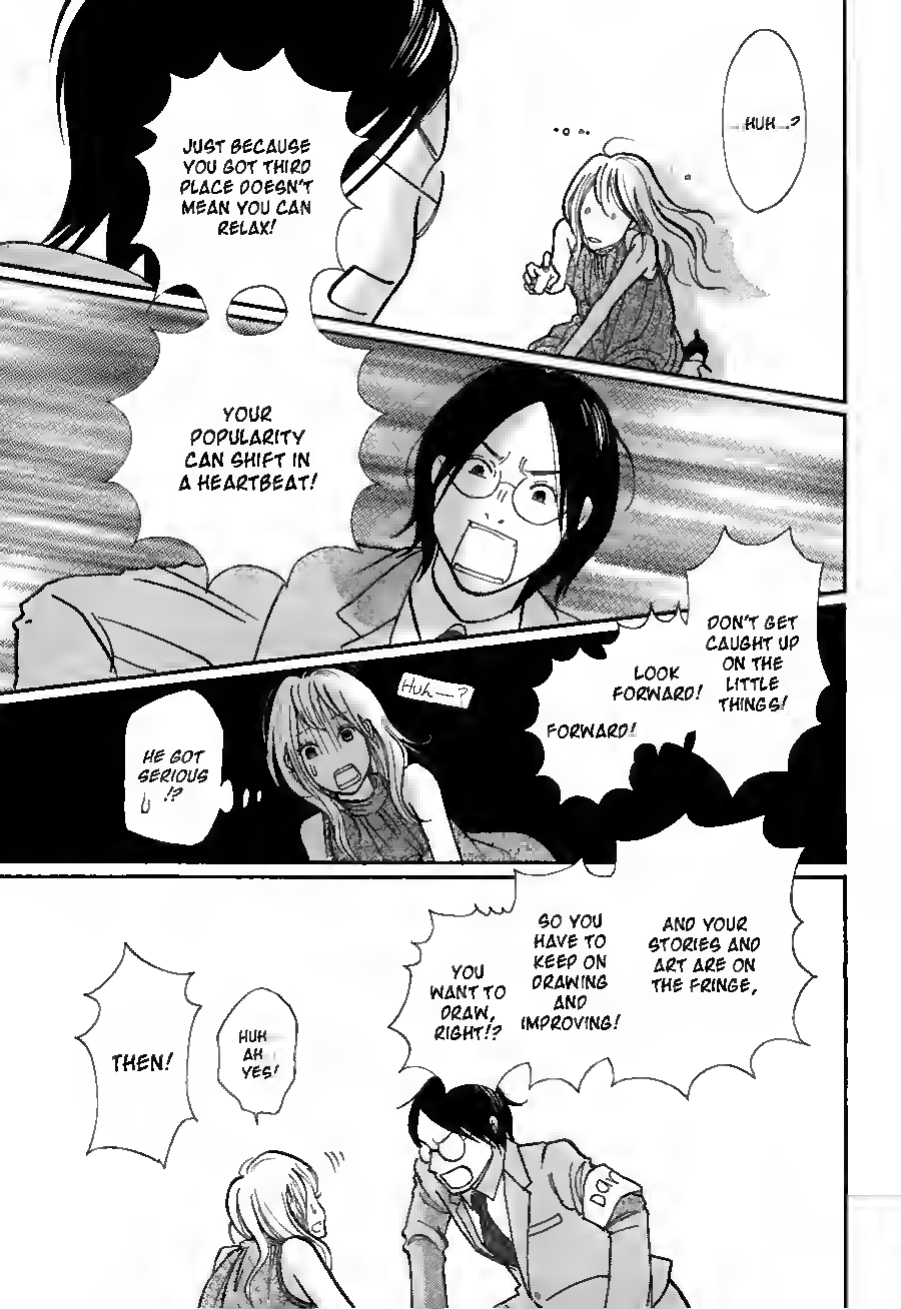

EXCUSE ME!
GR
FUTABA~~
HOW 'BOUT YOU SHOW ME HOW AKIMOTO DOES IT
AB

GRAB
HEY...!
LET ME GO...!
DANGER!
OW!

OH, FUTABA!
A AKI-MOTO!
THEY'RE GOING TO DO A DARTS COMPETITION, SO IT'LL GET DICEY HERE.
Darts'll fly.
Excuse me!
PLEASE CLEAR OUT!
THIS AREA IS DANGEROUS!
Darts
STALK
STALK
AH, GEEZ TODA, PLEASE HELP OUT INSTEAD OF GETTING DRUNK.
OH, DO YOU WANT TO PLAY DARTS?
SURE.
FUTABA, YOU PLAY TOO!
We don't have enough players!

I'M SORRY, FUTABA
PHEW
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US, TODA!
BUT WE ARE IN A RECESSION, SO THE PRIZES AREN'T SO GOOD~~
ARE YOU OK?
!
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO GET BACK
...AH...
HAAA
DROP
FUTABA !?

FUTABA
I'M FINE. I WAS JUST A LITTLE SCARED...
Ha ha ha
WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANT TO SWITCH EDITORS...
AH!
NO! THAT WAS JUST HER TALKING...
NO, I KNOW...
I SAID THE WRONG THING, WHEN I SAID IT WAS FINE BECAUSE IT WAS A MINOR LINE...
BUT...
Please don't give up because of that.
DAN'S

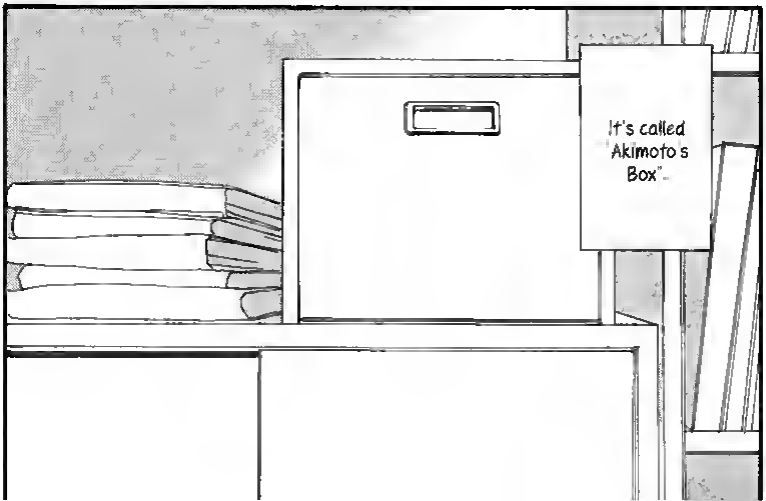

HUH...?
JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT THIRD PLACE DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN RELAX!
YOUR POPULARITY CAN SHIFT IN A HEARTBEAT!
DON'T GET CAUGHT UP ON THE LITTLE THINGS!
LOOK FORWARD!
FORWARD!
HUH—?
HE GOT SERIOUS ↓ !?
AND YOUR STORIES AND ART ARE ON THE FRINGE,
SO YOU HAVE TO KEEP ON DRAWING AND IMPROVING!
YOU WANT TO DRAW, RIGHT!?
HUH AH YES!
THEN!
DON

I'M THE ONLY EDITOR FOR YOU!
UH!
AH
OH NO... THIS IS...
WHAT SHOULD I DO..
WELL,
THAT'S HOW I FEEL WHAT ABOUT YOU?
Seriously, what should I do!?
bdmp
bdmp
bdmp

Extra

Pen to Chocolate Extra ①

Akimoto's T-shirts



WHAT'S WITH YOU, AKIMOTO~~
AH!
GEEZ~~
The box was put there three years ago——…
SSS
HUH? DOES IT REALLY BOTHER YOU THAT MUCH?
WOW
You look like a slob, jeez
YOUR SHIRT'S ALL WORN OUT AROUND THE NECK—
Huh? Do they really call us that?
It's because of guys like you that people call us editors backward smelly slobs!
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!
Leopard print
NO ONE FROM CORPORATE IS SUPPOSED TO COME OUT TODAY, SO I THOUGHT IT'D BE OK

AKIMOTO,
Oh! Have you heard of the internet?
HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN?
BESIDES, I HARDLY HAVE TIME TO GO SHOPPING FOR NEW CLOTHES...
And it's clean.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NAKED...
Heart☆Pounding
Jalapeno
WE HAD A BUNCH MADE FOR A RECENT EVENT, AND THERE ARE LEFTOVERS!
For Kisaragi's event
ME TOO! I'VE GOT TOO MANY.
Here, I'll put it in this box.
OH! THEN WILL YOU WEAR THIS ONE, TOO?
.....
What a life-saver!
OH! YOU SURE? THANKS!
Jalapeno!

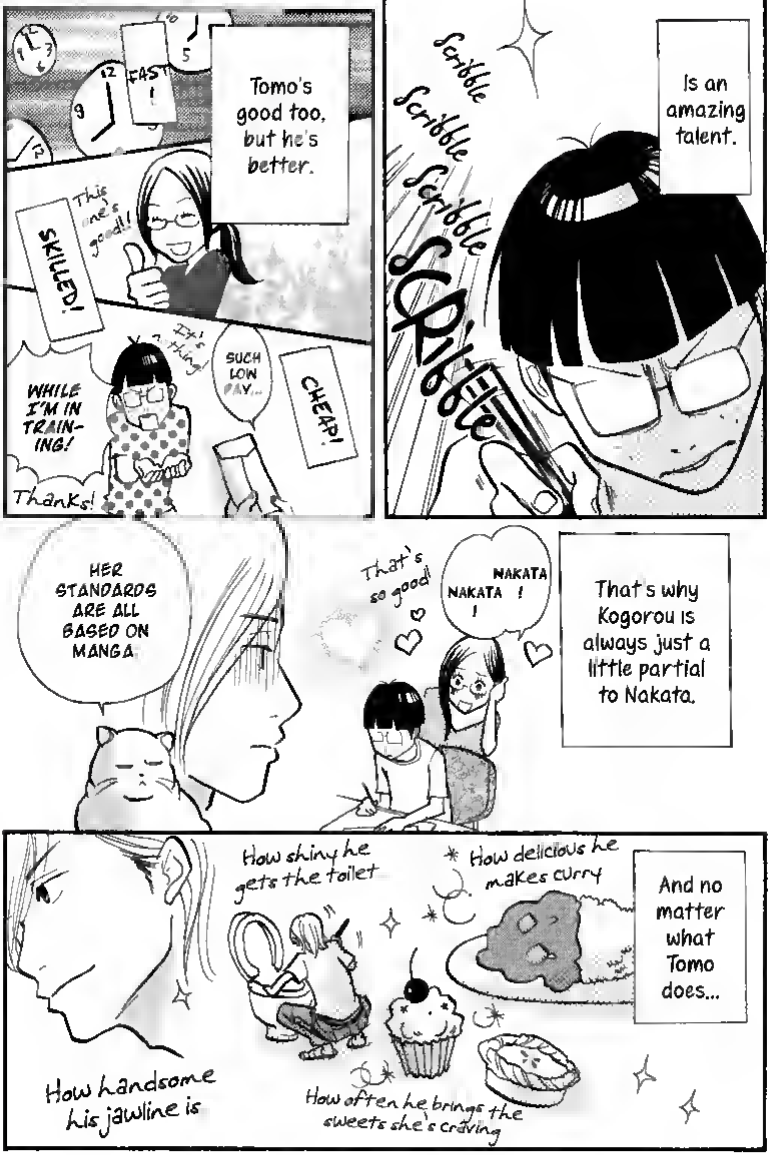
FROM MY TENNIS CLUB UNIFORM...
WAKAYAMA
THIS POP STAR ONE I'VE NEVER WORN...
MY GRANDMA BOUGHT ME THIS REALLY SKETCHY T-SHIRT AS A SOUVENIR...
Straight to Akimoto's Box
And after that...
Just like that, Akimoto's Box is always full.
Full of gratitude
I WENT TO A SECOND-HAND STORE THE OTHER DAY AND LOOKED FOR AKIMOTO SHIRTS.
Ha ha
And there are also
people like this.
Ah, I get it
On days like that, the First Star Editorial Department gets a little brighter.
Hello!
OH! TODAY IT'S ONE OF MINE!
E·N·d

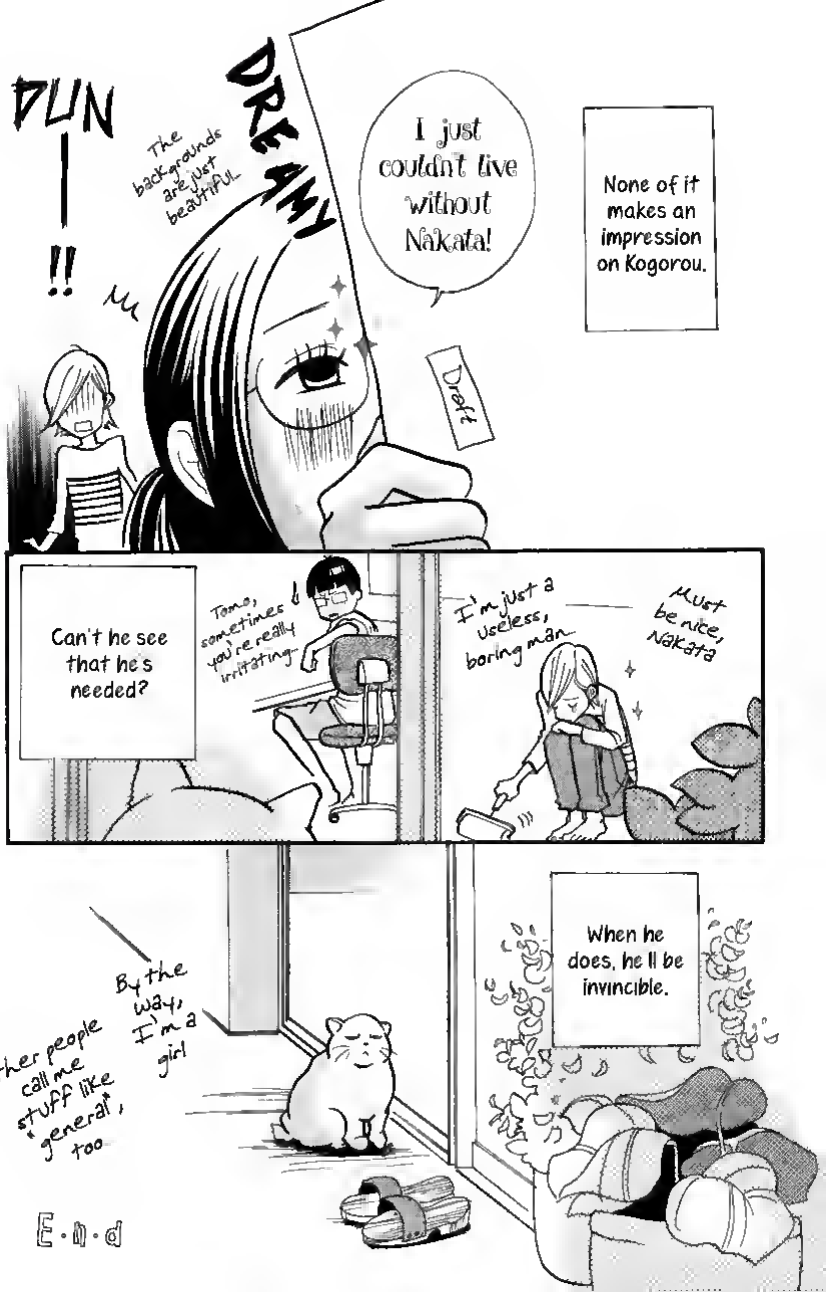
Pen to Chocolate Extra ②

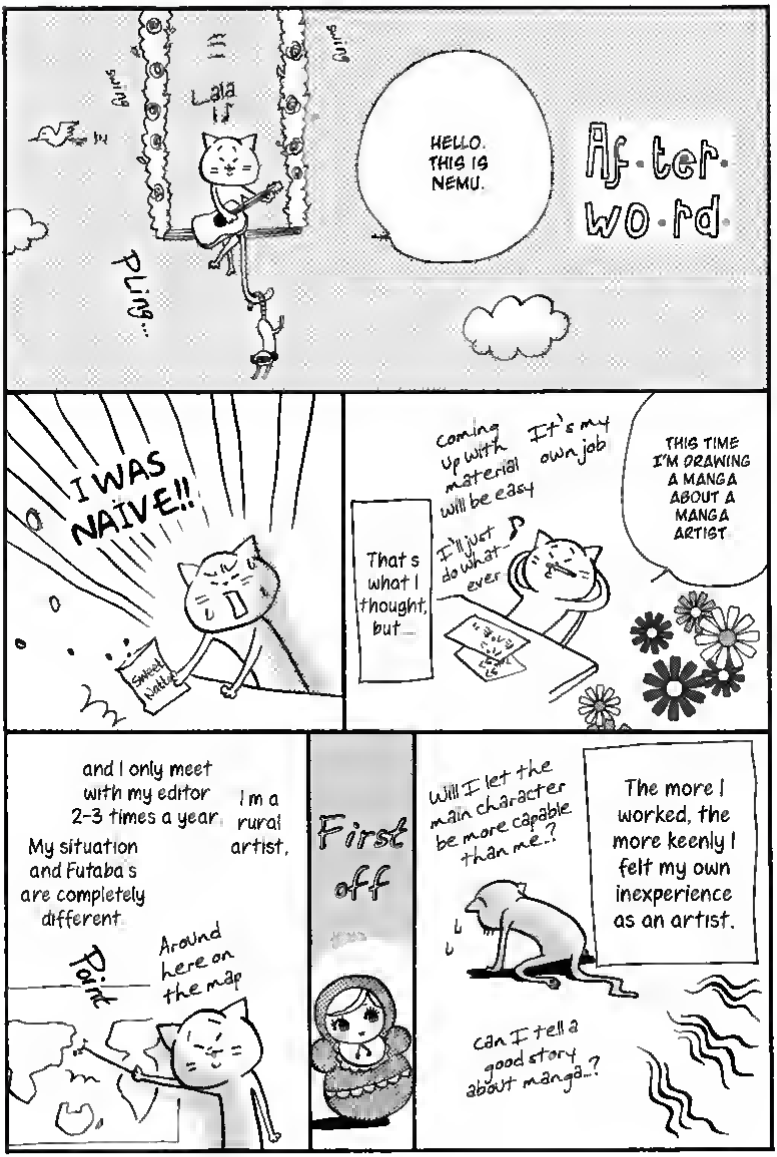
Tomo's Life

The "masu" is from Ibuse Masuji, and the "gorou" is from Kogorou
My name is Masugorou.
T/N: Ibuse Masuji: a famous Japanese novelist in the early 1900s
MEOWww
I'm a cat whose territory is a 300m radius from the center of Kogorou's apartment building
He's the assistant at Kogorou's place.
Morning, Masugorou!
He named me
This guy's Tomo.
Don't feed the cats.

This guy's Nakata.
He's another of Kogorou's assistants
Well, a partial portrait of him.
Even a cat like me can tell he's handsome.
A cheese-stuffed chicken-breast
And he's nice.
He always gives me something good
Well, there's not a lick of love in him.
Shaa!
Shaa!
Plus, he hates cats
You'll never become a good artist if you don't respect cats
But Nakata here...


Tomo's good too, but he's better.
FAST!
This one's good!!
SKILLED!
WHILE I'M IN TRAIN-ING!
Thanks!
It's thing
SUCH LOW PAY...
CHEAP!
Scribble Scribble Scribble SCRibble
Is an amazing talent.
HER STANDARDS ARE ALL BASED ON MANGA
That's so good
NAKATA NAKATA !
That's why Kogorou is always just a little partial to Nakata.
How handsome his jawline is
How shiny he gets the toilet
How delicious he makes curry
How often he brings the sweets she's craving
And no matter what Tomo does...


DUN
!!
DREAMY
The backgrounds are just beautiful
I just couldn't live without Nakata!
Draft
None of it makes an impression on Kogorou.
Can't he see that he's needed?
Tama, sometimes you're really irritating
I'm just a useless, boring man
Must be nice, Nakata
When he does, he'll be invincible.
By the way, I'm a girl
Other people call me stuff like "general", too
E·n·d


Lala la
Pling...
Pling
Pling
HELLO. THIS IS NEMU.
Af·ter·wo·rd
I WAS NAIVE!!
Coming up with material will be easy
That's what I thought, but...
It's my own job
I'll just do what ever
THIS TIME I'M DRAWING A MANGA ABOUT A MANGA ARTIST
I'm a rural artist,
and I only meet with my editor 2-3 times a year.
My situation and Futaba's are completely different.
Pointing
Around here on the map
First off
Will I let the main character be more capable than me..?
The more I worked, the more keenly I felt my own inexperience as an artist.
Can I tell a good story about manga..?

Nemu, your censoring is a little off-center.
I'm grateful to her for getting me my debut. We've been through a lot together.
My editor is a sweet woman around thirty.
Not a guy.
My editor, Mommy M
And also
HUH... I HAD NO IDEA
That's really hard
~and ~like this
AN EDITOR'S JOB IS...
maybe I can look at the job of being a manga artist with a fresh set of eyes.
But because the situation is different with Futaba,
It's actually a lot of people who make it.
and printers.
designers,
sales people,
There's editors,
You can't make a manga alone.
That's right!
And thank you for your continued support.
THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
~pling
I'll see you in volume two
2009 Nemu Youko
and to everyone who picked up this book,
To those who work with me to create my manga,